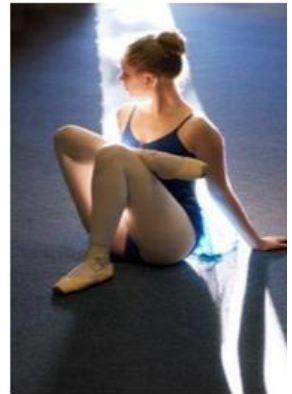


Cochlear Implant Referral Guide



**Tygerberg Hospital Stellenbosch University
Cochlear Implant Unit**

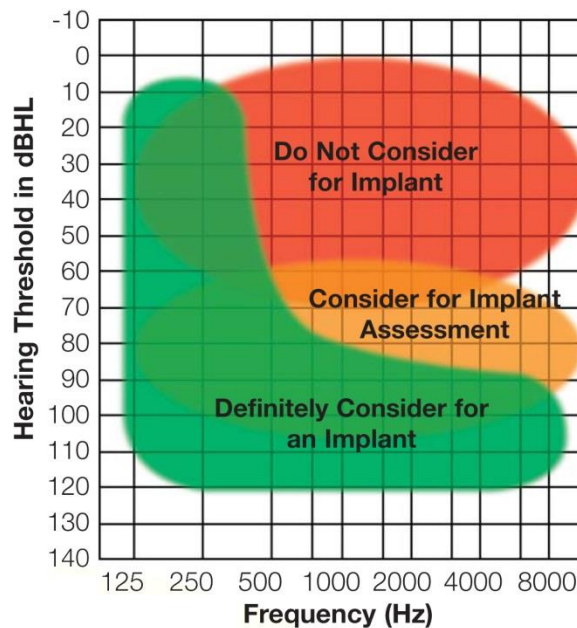
Established 1986

Tel: 021 938 5086/4604

www.cochlearimplants.co.za



Referral Criteria



- ✓ Patients can have good/normal low frequency thresholds
- ✓ ≥ 75 dB Pure Tone Average
- ✓ $< 60\%$ Aided Speech Perception (Monosyllabic words)
- ✓ Rule of thumb: If the patient cannot hear over the phone with their hearing aid(s), refer
- ✓ Refer both private and state patients (adults and children)

COCHLEAR IMPLANT PROCESS

1. **IDENTIFY** potential patient
2. **TRIAL** with hearing aids
3. **REFER SIMULTANEOUSLY** for a cochlear implant evaluation
4. **CI Team performs evaluation**, gives feedback to patient and referring audiologist
5. **Surgery**
6. **Activation** of CI 3-4 weeks post-surgery
7. Ongoing sessions of programming (MAPping) and auditory re/habilitation with life-long follow up

ROLE OF THE REFERRING AUDIOLOGIST

- ✓ Unaided ear specific pure tone air- & bone conduction + speech perception (if possible)
- ✓ Ear specific aided free field pure tones with hearing aids including speech recognition (monosyllables)
- ✓ ABR and OAE (& ASSR if possible) in paediatric cases

The non-implanted ear continues to be aided and managed by the referring audiologist.

Referral Considerations

Congenitally deaf children *should ideally be:*

- Identified **with new-born hearing screening**
- Diagnosed by **three months** and
- Referred to a CI team **immediately**
- To optimize brain plasticity, congenitally deaf children need to be **implanted before the age of 3 years. The earlier implantation can be done the better.**



- **DON'T WAIT!** Trial with hearing aids and refer simultaneously to CI team
- **NO UPPER or LOWER AGE LIMIT** for referral
- **MENINGITIS:** Audiological emergency - fast track for implantation before the cochlea ossifies
- **ANSD:** Potentially excellent treatment option
- **SINGLE SIDED DEAFNESS:** Cochlear implantation is the only treatment option that can restore true localization
- **MULTI-HANDICAPPED PATIENTS** are not excluded from cochlear implant evaluation
- **RE/HABILITATION:** We have specialised Speech-Language Therapists managing our young children. We have close links with CHAT and the Carel du Toit centre to support and educate families from birth to Grade 3. Rehabilitation is an important part of our patient care
- **FUNDING** should not prevent referral. Both private and state patients are supported by our team
- **PARTICIPATE:** The CI team welcomes your participation from referral to activation and rehabilitation

In addition to the core unit based at Tygerberg Hospital, audiological services are also available in Paarl, Panorama and East London (Frere Hospital)

Our Team



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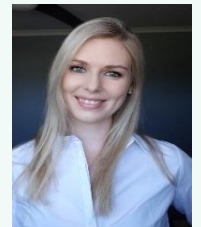
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Guide sponsored by

