

BONE ANCHORED HEARING IMPLANT (BAHI) ASSESSMENT

Your child has been referred for a Bone Anchored Hearing Implant assessment. The assessment will last up to 1.5 hours . You will be seen the BAHI Audiology team who are all Healthcare Scientists and Allied Health Professionals specialising in hearing.

What does the assessment involve?

A history will be taken to include your child's health, any medical conditions and questions about their hearing. We will also ask about any hearing aids used previously and how your child coped with these hearing aids. It is important to bring any hearing aids your child has with you to the assessment.

Tests

All tests will be fully explained before starting and will only be carried out with your consent.

- **Hearing tests**

We will test your child's hearing and may do this in several ways depending on your child's developmental age. One method is to train your child to turn to a puppet every time a noise is heard or your child may be asked to play a listening game such as putting a ball on stick when a noise is heard. Older children may be able to press a button when a noise is heard. If hearing assessment is not possible then there are other methods of obtaining an accurate measure of hearing and your audiologist will discuss this with you.

Hearing tests with your child's existing hearing aid may be performed through a loud speaker where appropriate to see how much benefit they get from wearing it.

- **Ear Examination**

The audiologist may wish to look in your child's ears where appropriate and may perform a test called tympanometry to check whether your child's middle ear is working normally.

- **Speech Testing**

This is occasionally carried out where appropriate and involves your child listening to words or sentences and repeating back what is heard or another type of test will require your child to point to different objects on a table when they are called out. This can help us determine how well your child can hear speech.

- **Questionnaires**

You may be asked to complete a questionnaire regarding your child's hearing / hearing aid use which will help to ascertain the degree of benefit your child is receiving through their existing hearing aid use.

Results

The audiologist will look at all the results and discuss them with you. If your child may be suitable for a BAHI you may be given a type of hearing aid on trial which acts in a similar way to a BAHI to assess with your child before coming to a decision whether to go ahead with a BAHI. At the end of the appointment we will agree with you the next course of action, which may include a number of further appointments particularly if some of the assessments have not been completed.

Meeting another patient

It is sometimes possible for the department to arrange for you to meet a family who already have a BAHI. Some families find this very beneficial and if this is of interest to you then please discuss this with your Audiologist.

Research

Occasionally you may be asked if you would be prepared to take part in a medical research study. Participation is voluntary and should you not wish to take part this will not affect your child's care in anyway.