

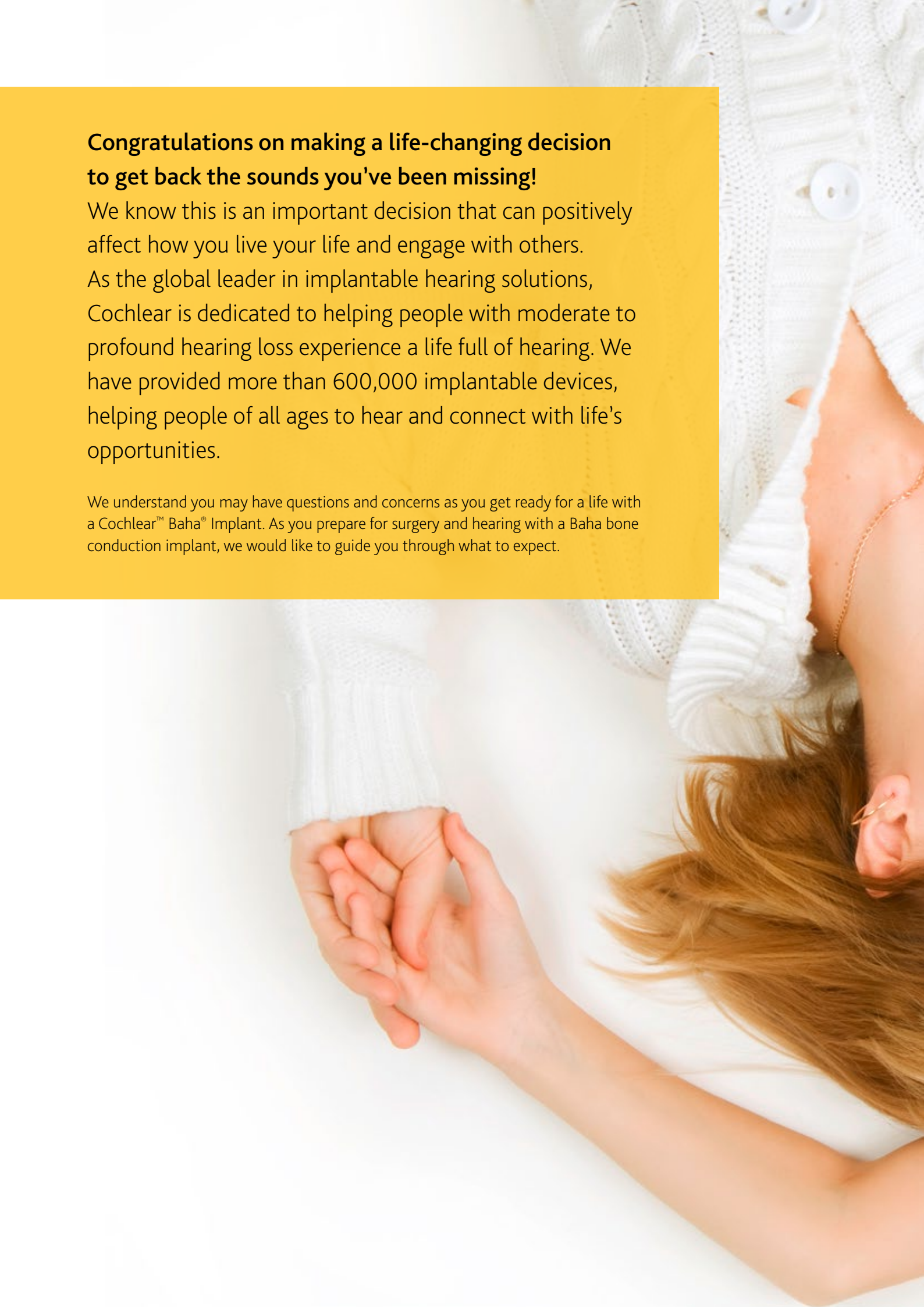
The Cochlear™ Baha® System

Preparing for surgery



Hear now. And always





Congratulations on making a life-changing decision to get back the sounds you've been missing!

We know this is an important decision that can positively affect how you live your life and engage with others.

As the global leader in implantable hearing solutions, Cochlear is dedicated to helping people with moderate to profound hearing loss experience a life full of hearing. We have provided more than 600,000 implantable devices, helping people of all ages to hear and connect with life's opportunities.

We understand you may have questions and concerns as you get ready for a life with a Cochlear™ Baha® Implant. As you prepare for surgery and hearing with a Baha bone conduction implant, we would like to guide you through what to expect.



Step 1 – Preparing for surgery

Preparing for surgery checklist

- Make sure you have a map of the hospital and clear instructions on where you should go on the day.
- Arrange to have a support person drive you to the hospital and take you home after surgery.
- Wear comfortable clothing and a button up shirt so you do not need to pull anything over your head.
- If you wear glasses or other head gear, please discuss with your surgeon in advance, and bring them with you on the day of your surgery. This is to ensure the position of your implant does not interfere with your head gear/glasses.
- If you take prescription medication, discuss with your medical team what you should take on the day of surgery.
- Bring a charger for mobile devices in case you are at the hospital for longer than expected. It is advisable to bring reading material as you might have to wait for your surgery.
- If you have any questions or concerns about your upcoming surgery, don't hesitate to contact your medical team.

As you anticipate and prepare for your Baha Implant surgery, you may experience a range of emotions. To help put you at ease, here is everything you need to know for surgery.

The Baha Implant procedure is typically a same-day, outpatient procedure. Your surgeon and medical team will conduct a pre-surgical examination to ensure you are healthy for the procedure. You should tell your medical team about any medications you are taking and other health conditions and talk to them about concerns you may have.

In addition to talking to your surgeon and medical team about the surgery and what to expect, you may also want to connect with a Cochlear Volunteer who already has a bone conduction implant and can share their experience with you. If you are not currently in contact with a Cochlear Volunteer but would like to be, please visit: hearmore.cochlear.com or speak to a Cochlear hearing specialist.

Support person at the hospital

We recommend you have someone at the hospital on the day of surgery to support you and help you to communicate. If you use a hearing aid, there may be times when you are not able to use it. There may also be times when the surgical team members are talking to you with masks covering their mouths, making it difficult if you rely on lip-reading. Some of the medical team may not know you have difficulty communicating in these situations, so feel free to remind them. Having a support person there can help you to communicate and ease any anxieties you may have as you wait for your procedure.

Support getting home

You will need someone to drive you home after surgery. We recommend ensuring in advance that you have a support person available after surgery. They can help get you settled in at home, ensure any prescriptions are filled and get you started on your recovery.

Connect with a volunteer

www.hearmore.cochlear.com

Step 2 – Surgery day

Surgery day is here. As with any surgery, you will probably be experiencing a range of emotions. You may be feeling nervous, hopeful and excited. Just remember, Baha Implant surgery is in principle relatively simple.

When you arrive at the hospital, you will typically register, change into a gown and get prepped for surgery. The surgery generally takes less than an hour, with additional time in the preparation and recovery areas. While you are in surgery, your support person and family can choose to wait in the waiting area.

The surgery

1. During the operation, the surgeon will make a small incision behind the ear. A small area of hair may be shaved away from the incision site.
2. The method differs somewhat depending on whether you are receiving a Baha Connect or a Baha Attract.

For Baha Connect – the surgeon will make an incision (cut) behind the ear. The titanium implant/abutment is attached to the skull. A 'healing cap' or protective cover will be put over the abutment to protect it while it heals.

For Baha Attract – the surgeon will make an incision around the proposed location of the magnet. The titanium implant/magnet is attached to the skull.

3. The incision will be closed with stitches and may be covered with a dressing or bandage.
4. Following the surgery, the medical team will normally come out of the operating room to update your family.

Waking up

After surgery, you will be brought into a recovery room. If you underwent general anaesthesia, you may feel groggy when you wake up. You may feel some soreness and tenderness from the incision and surgery.

Post surgery checklist

- Plan ahead! You could prepare some light meals before you go to surgery so you can take it easy when you return.
- Take any prescription pain medications according to the instructions. Consult with your medical team beforehand on any possible side effects.
- If you have any questions or concerns about your surgery once you are at home, don't hesitate to call your medical team.



Step 3 – After surgery

“The experience of surgery for me and for everyone else I’ve talked to, is easy. It’s nothing to be worried about at all.”

Tim – Cochlear Baha System recipient

Surgery is over. Many people go home the same day as their surgery.

You may have a bandage or dressing to protect the incision site. You will be given instructions on how to care for your incision site, along with medication prescriptions and aftercare advice.

Recovery time

Most people are back to their normal activities within a few days. Depending on the guidance from your medical team, you may want to take time off from work or activities to allow yourself time to adapt and the incision site to heal. Your surgeon will make specific recommendations regarding your post-operative care and you will be given a follow-up appointment to check on your progress.

Prior to your fitting you may feel anxious and excited as you prepare to hear for the first time with your Baha Implant. During this time you may find it helpful to be put in touch with others who have been through a similar journey. We would be happy to connect you to a Cochlear Volunteer who can share their personal experience with you.

Sound Processor Fitting

The moment you’ve been waiting for!

To help ease anxiety on the day of your fitting, be sure to get a good night’s sleep and arrive at your appointment on time.

At the appointment, your audiologist will check the implant site and attach the Baha Sound Processor to your abutment or magnet. Then you will perform a couple of simple hearing tests through your Baha Sound Processor. You will be able to practice attaching the processor to your implant, and when the sound processor is turned on you will start to be able to hear with your Baha! Your audiologist will explain how to use the sound processor and possibly some of the accessories. It may take a short while to get used to hearing with your Baha, this is normal, but be sure to get in touch with your audiologist if any sounds are uncomfortable.

Connect with a volunteer

www.hearmore.cochlear.com

A man with a beard and a young girl with long hair are dancing together in a bright room. The man is wearing a blue and white plaid shirt and blue jeans, and the girl is wearing a pink and blue plaid shirt and tan pants. They are both smiling and looking at each other. The background is a bright window with a view of a city.

You're not alone in this journey...

We're here with you every step of the way. Our Customer Support Team are happy to help answer your questions and assist as you get used to your device.

Now you can be part of the Cochlear Family. Activating your membership to the Cochlear Family provides you with personalised benefits that help you get the most from your Baha Sound Processor. You'll learn about the latest technology from Cochlear, get tips from hearing experts and connect with others to share experiences.

Join Cochlear Family to stay connected with Cochlear today at www.cochlear.com/uk/cochlear-family

To get in touch with our Customer Support Team email uksupport@cochlear.com

We are here to support you as you experience a whole new world of sound.

Hear now. And always

As the global leader in implantable hearing solutions, Cochlear is dedicated to helping people with moderate to profound hearing loss experience a life full of hearing. We have provided more than 600,000 implantable devices, helping people of all ages to hear and connect with life's opportunities.

We aim to give people the best lifelong hearing experience and access to innovative future technologies. We have the industry's best clinical, research and support networks.

That's why more people choose Cochlear than any other hearing implant company.



Cochlear Ltd (ABN 96 002 618 073) 1 University Avenue, Macquarie University, NSW 2109, Australia Tel: +61 2 9428 6555 Fax: +61 2 9428 6352

Cochlear AG EMEA Headquarters, Peter Merian-Weg 4, 4052 Basel, Switzerland Tel: +41 61 205 8204 Fax: +41 61 205 8205

Cochlear Deutschland GmbH & Co. KG Karl-Wiechert-Allee 76A, 30625 Hannover, Germany Tel: +49 511 542 7750 Fax: +49 511 542 7770

Cochlear Europe Ltd 6 Dashwood Lang Road, Bourne Business Park, Addlestone, Surrey KT15 2HJ, United Kingdom Tel: +44 1932 26 3400 Fax: +44 1932 26 3426

Cochlear Austria GmbH CEE Office, Millennium Tower, 45th Floor, Handelskai 94-96, 1200 Vienna, Austria Tel: +43 1 37600 26 000

Cochlear Benelux NV Schaliënhoedreef 20 i, B-2800 Mechelen, Belgium Tel: +32 15 79 55 77

Cochlear Europe Limited Czech Branch Office, Kamenická 656/56, 170 00 Prague 7, Czech Republic Tel: +420 222 13 53 13

Cochlear France SAS 135 route de Saint Simon, CS 43574, 31035 Toulouse, France Tel: +33 5 34 63 85 85 (international) or 0805 200 016 (national) Fax: +33 5 34 63 85 80

Cochlear Italia S.r.l. Via Larga 33, 40138 Bologna, Italy Tel: +39 051 601 53 11 Fax: +39 051 39 20 62

Cochlear Middle East FZ-LLC Dubai Healthcare City, Al Razi Building 64, Block A, Ground Floor, Offices IR1 and IR2, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
Tel: +971 4 818 4400 Fax: +971 4 361 8925

Cochlear Nordic AB Konstruktionsvägen 14, 435 33 Mölnlycke, Sweden Tel: +46 31 335 14 61

Cochlear Nordic AB Menuetto Business Center, Huopalahdentie 24 A, 00350 Helsinki, Finland Tel: +358 20 735 0788

Cochlear Norway AS Postboks 6614, Etterstad, 0607 Oslo, Norway Tel: +47 22 59 47 00

Cochlear Tıbbi Cihazlar ve Sağlık Hizmetleri Ltd. Şti. Çubuklu Mah. Boğaziçi Cad., Boğaziçi Plaza No: 6/1, Kavacak, TR-34805 Beykoz-Istanbul, Turkey Tel: +90 216 538 5900 Fax: +90 216 538 5919

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Please seek advice from your health professional about treatments for hearing loss. Outcomes may vary, and your health professional will advise you about the factors which could affect your outcome. Always read the instructions for use. Not all products are available in all countries. Please contact your local Cochlear representative for product information.

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