



NHS

Great Ormond Street
Hospital for Children
NHS Foundation Trust

Having a cochlear implant operation (Easy Read)



You are coming to hospital for an operation to put a cochlear implant under the skin on your head.



You hear sounds using your ears. If there is a problem with your ears, you might find it hard to hear sounds.



If you cannot hear well, a cochlear implant can make it feel like you can hear.



There are two bits to a cochlear implant: a tiny computer under your skin behind your ear.



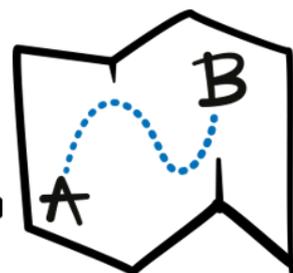
A tiny microphone clips to the outside of the computer, joined by a wire.



They work together so sound signals travel to your brain so it can work out what sound you are hearing.

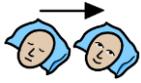


You will have the operation while you are under anaesthetic. This means you will not feel anything or know what happens during the operation.





The doctor will make a cut in your skin near your ear, take away some bone and fix the tiny computer in place.



You will come back to the ward to wake up from the anaesthetic.



You will have a big bandage around your head after the operation. The nurses will take this off the day after your operation.



The nurses will check you regularly to make sure you are getting better.



You will feel sore after the operation but the nurses will give you pain medicine to take away the pain.



You can have something to eat and drink when you are not feeling sick.



You will stay one night on the ward and go home the next morning.



You must keep the operation site dry for 10 days. You can wash with a flannel rather than have a shower.



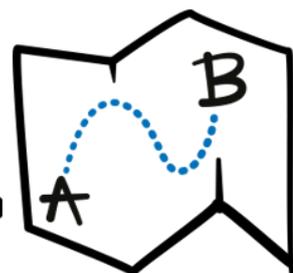
You may still be sore when you get home. You can have pain medicine to take away the pain.



You will be off school for 2 weeks.



When you go back, you should not do sport or PE straightaway.





You will need to come back to the hospital for a check-up. We will tell you when this is booked.



Please ask us if you have any questions.

