



Single-sided deafness

Single Sided Deafness (SSD) is simply when a person has normal hearing in one ear only.

This may be due to a number of factors such as:

- Physical trauma to the ear, such as a head injury
- Severe Ménière's Disease
- Viral or bacterial infection in the inner ear
- Acoustic Nerve Tumour
- Sudden hearing loss
- Idiopathic (unknown etiology).

Treatment and Management Options

Treatment options and communication strategies can significantly reduce the impact of Single Sided Deafness. Treatment options specifically designed to assist people with Single Sided Deafness include:

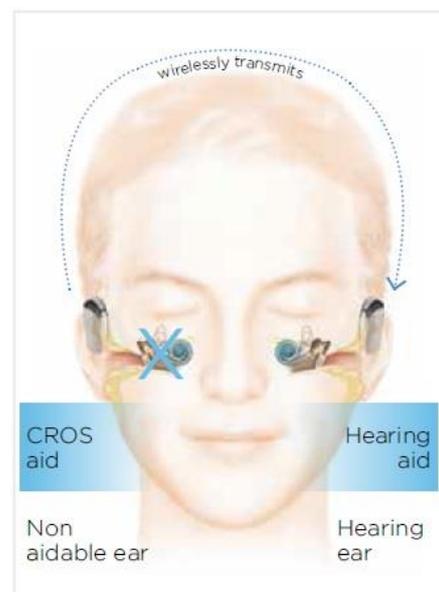
1. CROS Hearing Aid systems
2. Bone Conduction Implants
3. Cochlear Implants.

CROS Hearing Aid

A CROS (Contra-lateral Routing Of the Signal) system is made of two devices; a microphone (transmitter) and a hearing aid (receiver).

The microphone is worn on the side you cannot hear from and this sends the sound wirelessly to the receiver worn on your better-hearing ear. This will allow you to hear sounds even when they come from the side with little or no hearing.

There are many different styles of CROS devices to choose from, and your hearing aid audiologist will discuss this further with you.



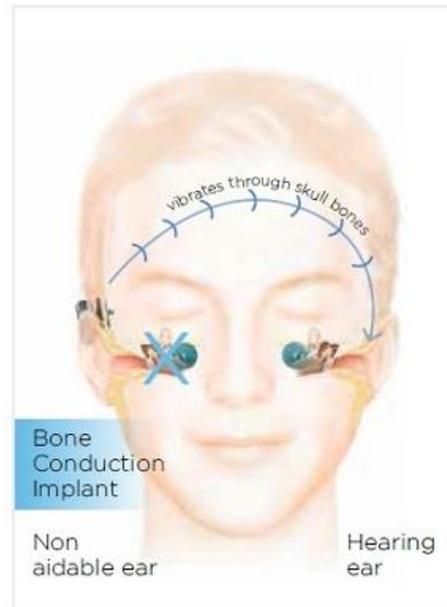


Bone Conduction Implant

Bone Conduction Implants are surgically inserted behind the 'non-hearing ear'. Sounds are picked up by the processor and then transferred through the bones of the skull, to the hearing ear, allowing detection of sounds from the 'non-hearing side'.

There are many types of Bone Conduction Implants, and your audiologist will discuss which types are best suited to your needs.

During your assessment, your audiologist will see how you perform with a bone conduction tester and you may trial this tester at home.



Cochlear Implants

A cochlear implant is a surgically-implanted electronic device providing sound to someone with severe to profound deafness. The device consists of a sound processor, worn externally behind the ear, and an implant surgically placed under the skin.

While the cochlear implant surgery is more invasive than surgery for bone conduction implants, the main difference with a cochlear implant is that you will be using the hearing nerve from the poorer-hearing ear as opposed to the sound being transferred to the better-hearing ear.

Cochlear implants are also of interest to tinnitus sufferers as they have been known to provide some tinnitus relief on the side of the hearing loss after implantation.

