



**CARDIFF PAEDIATRIC
COCHLEAR IMPLANT
PROGRAMME**

**COCHLEAR IMPLANT
SURGERY**

Penguin Outpatients, Ground Floor (Ocean)
Noah's Ark Children's Hospital for Wales
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BEFORE AND DURING SURGERY

- Bring day and night clothes that are button through to avoid pulling clothes over your child's head, whilst it is bandaged.
- If you have any questions about parking, please contact the parking office as rates and conditions change.
- There is parent accommodation available, but this is not pre-bookable. When you arrive enquire with the ward staff if there are rooms available. Many of the bays on Owl ward have a pull-down bed for parents next to the child's bed.
- There is a playroom on the ward that the children love, but also bring some favourite books or small toys that your child may play with on the bed after their operation.
- The surgeon and anaesthetist will come to see you on the ward to explain the surgery and the anaesthetic procedure on the morning of the operation
- You will be able to accompany your child up to theatre, but only one parent can take them into the anaesthetic room. Whilst this part can be distressing for parents, your child will only be upset for a few moments and won't remember this time.
- Your child will be given antibiotics during the surgery.
- The operation will take between 3-5 hours altogether. You are able to do whatever you feel best during this time i.e. go home or go somewhere outside the hospital if you wish, as long as you can be contacted by mobile phone. A member of the team will update you on how the operation is going, the expected time of completion and also the results of the implant tests. They will also be available to offer any other support that is required.

AFTER SURGERY

- Your child will have a large bandage on their head which will need to stay on for up to 48 hours if possible. Do not be alarmed by this as this is merely to put pressure on the operation site in order to aid healing. Do not worry if your child pulls the bandage off.
- Once the bandage is removed you will see a small scar and some swelling. Sometimes the wound can bleed or weep as it closes, but if you have any concerns or suspect an infection, then please contact the team straight away.
- Your child will have an IV drip in their hand which will be taken out shortly after returning to the ward.
- All children react to the anaesthetic differently - some will be sleepy, some upset, some agitated or nauseous and some are wide awake and anxious to play in the playroom!
- Your child's balance may be affected for a short time. This may not happen until a few days after the operation.
- Your child will recover quickly from this operation and may well want to return to normal activities. At this stage you will have to be careful that your child does not knock their head.
- The day after surgery your child will have an x-ray to check the position of the implant.
- You will be given an appointment to attend the outpatient clinic and see the surgeon for them to check the scar about 7 to 10 days following the operation.
- Your child can wash their hair about a week after surgery.
- Your child should not go swimming until 6 weeks after the operation.

Once you return home, it is important to report any concerns you may have regarding the operation site or your child's general health to the team.

If there is anything you are worried about, please ring someone at the implant programme.

After surgery when can I...?	Timescale
Wash my hair	One week
Go swimming* (external must be removed unless you have a waterproof processor) * Some CI users have balance problems if this is the case they should not swim alone. It is possible to become disorientated under water and they must learn how to identify the direction of the surface. If goggles are worn please ensure the strap is not too tight on the implant receiver site	Six weeks
Return to school	On average one week
Fly	Six weeks
Contact sport e.g. boxing, kick boxing, rugby, ice hockey	To be avoided
Vigorous sports e.g. football, netball, hockey, squash	Six months. To be discussed with your surgeon depending upon progress – any other physical activity please ask your surgeon
Gymnastics	
Artificial ski slope	Six weeks
Horse riding	Three months
Skydiving/parachuting	Three months
Using the trampoline	Three months
Activity park rides	Six months