Bone Conduction Implants

What is a Bone Conduction Implant?

A Bone Conduction Implant delivers sound via direct bone conduction to the inner ear, effectively bypassing the outer and middle ear. The term Bone Anchored Hearing Aid (BAHA) was used historically to describe bone conduction implants, however the term BAHA refers to a specific type and brand of bone conduction implant. A Bone Conduction Implant relies on a working cochlea to send sound to the brain. There are several bone conduction implants which may be suitable; each works in a different way. They all have a surgically inserted fixing point anchored to the skull and an external processor. The external processor converts the sound energy into mechanical movement of the implanted anchor. The fixture vibrates in the skull and so that the natural bone conduction (transmission) of sound to the cochlea can bypass the non-functioning outer or middle ear.

Who is suitable for a Bone Conduction Implant?

Candidates may include those:

- With hearing problems in the outer or middle ears.
- Those who are unable to wear conventional hearing aids due to ear infections or skin problems.
- Those who are unable to wear conventional hearing aids due to ear abnormalities such as bony growths in the ear canal, a very narrow ear canal, or difficulty wearing ear moulds due to previous ear surgery.
- Single sided deafness.

Possible outcomes using a Bone Conduction Implant?

A bone conduction implant may help with:

- Reducing the risk of ear infections or skin problems
- Hearing without occluding ear moulds
- Hearing sounds in the environment
- Hearing speech
- Monitoring the volume of your own voice
- Lip reading
• Using the telephone
• Enhanced music appreciation

More information on the above is available in the referral section.