Middle Ear Implant

A middle ear implant is implanted in the middle ear and mechanically stimulates the inner ear. It is designed for candidates who are unable to use hearing aids for medical reasons. The middle ear implant system consists of two main parts: an internal and an external part.

The internal part is implanted during the surgical procedure. It consists of:

- A receiver package, including a magnet
- An internal component which is attached in the middle ear either to one of the bones in the middle ear, or attached near to the round window of the cochlea.

The external part is called the processor. It picks up sound from the environment, and transmits the signal across the skin to the implanted receiver. It uses a magnet to hold in position. The internal component adds extra movement to the natural hearing pathway. The sound is transmitted into the cochlea along this pathway.

Who is suitable for a Middle Ear Implant?

Candidates may include those:

- With hearing problems in the outer, middle or inner ears
- Those who are unable to wear conventional hearing aids due to certain types of ear infections, skin problems or ear mould allergies
- Those who are unable to wear conventional hearing aids due to ear abnormalities such as bony growths in the ear canal or a very narrow ear canal

Possible outcomes using a middle ear implant?

- Reducing the risk of ear infections or skin problems
- More natural sound quality
- Lack of feedback
- Absence of occlusion
- Less distortion