Osseointegrated Hearing Device Program

OSSEOINTEGRATED HEARING DEVICE

Osseointegrated, or bone-anchored, hearing devices are recommended for patients with specific types of hearing loss for which a traditional hearing aid may not be beneficial. A titanium implant called an abutment is surgically placed in the temporal bone behind the ear. An external device called a sound processor attaches to the abutment. Microphones on the processor pick up sound and the processor changes that sound into vibrations which are transmitted to the ear via the abutment.

OSSEOINTEGRATED HEARING DEVICE EVALUATION

Your audiologist will review the results of your hearing test. Depending on your type of hearing loss, you may be a candidate for other types of hearing devices, such as a traditional hearing aid or a CROS hearing aid. During the evaluation, your audiologist will provide you with information regarding all the different hearing devices and answer any questions you may have regarding sound quality, cost, aesthetics, and connectivity to smartphones or other external devices. Additionally, your audiologist will program demo devices so you can try listening through the various hearing devices to determine which works best for you. You are under no obligation to select or purchase a hearing device unless you are ready to do so.

OSSEOINTEGRATED HEARING DEVICE TIMEFRAME

If you decide to move forward with an osseointegrated hearing device, our medical assistant will initiate the insurance pre-authorization process. This process varies depending on your insurance company, but generally takes one month to complete. A follow-up medical consultation and surgery take place after preauthorization is in place. The surgery is an outpatient procedure. Approximately two to three months after surgery you will be fit with your sound processor at an activation appointment.

OSSEOINTEGRATED HEARING DEVICE ACTIVATION

At your activation appointment, your osseointegrated hearing device will be programmed to fit your hearing loss. There will be a brief hearing test done with the device on to confirm it is programmed correctly. You will learn how to take care of and maintain your new hearing device, including battery replacement and placing it on and off the abutment. Any accessories (such as remote controls) which are provided with your osseointegrated hearing device will be programmed to pair with your unique device.

There is a fitting fee of $250 due at the activation appointment for all patients that is NOT covered by insurance.

FOLLOW UP APPOINTMENTS

You will have at least one follow up appointment scheduled approximately two weeks after your activation. This appointment allows your audiologist to meet with you, discuss your experiences, and make any further fine tuning adjustments to the hearing device programming as needed. Further follow up appointments can be scheduled as needed. Ideally patients continue to return at least once a year to monitor hearing loss and ensure the hearing device continues to function appropriately.