

HOW DO I KNOW IF I WOULD BENEFIT FROM A BAHA?

A number of medical and audiological assessments are required to determine if the BAHA is the device of choice for a person. The results of these tests allow the Clinicians to advise people of the benefit they may gain from the device.

WHAT IF A BAHA IS NOT DEEMED APPROPRIATE FOR AN INDIVIDUAL AT PRESENT?

We can advise on alternatives that may be of assistance. Hearing may deteriorate over time or technology may advance such that another type of hearing implant may become appropriate. With this in mind we can continue to monitor your hearing.

HOW TO REFER

For initial evaluation at SACIC, potential recipients may be referred by their GP, an Audiologist, a Hearing Aid Provider or they may self refer.

In order to access Medicare rebates for some services it will be necessary to obtain a referral from your GP to either:

Dr. Robert Morrissey or Dr. Paul Varley

We are happy to forward to your G.P. any relevant information from your initial audiological assessment.

CONTACT DETAILS

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If you have any questions or require further information please do not hesitate to contact us.



South Australian Cochlear
Implant Centre Pty Ltd

Bone Anchored Hearing Aids (BAHA)



Bone Anchored Hearing Aids (BAHA)

WHO IS SACIC AND WHAT SERVICES DO WE PROVIDE?

We are a private adult hearing implant centre. We provide a full range of services for people who may require or have an implanted hearing device. Services include preoperative medical and audiological evaluation, implant surgery and postoperative rehabilitation and maintenance.

We were established to provide a timely and more accessible adult cochlear implant service. There are a number of implantable hearing devices now available, including the full array Cochlear Implant, the Hybrid Cochlear Implant, the Bone Anchored Hearing Aid (BAHA) and the Vibrant Soundbridge (VSB). This brochure deals with the BAHA.

TEAM STRUCTURE

Ear Nose and Throat Surgeons

Dr. Robert Morrissey
Dr. Paul Varley

Audiologists

Keith Chiveralls
Nina Swiderski
Scott Eckert
Caren Sawers

Administrative Officer

Gail Drogemuller

WHAT IS A BAHA?

A BAHA is a hearing device which clips onto a small titanium screw that is embedded in the skull behind the ear. Sound is converted to vibration which is transmitted to the inner ear through the skull bones. The device can be effective for people with a variety of hearing losses including;

1. Middle ear (conductive) hearing loss that is not suitable for surgical correction and where hearing aids are not a satisfactory option.
2. Inner ear hearing loss of less than 60dBHL where hearing aids are not a satisfactory option.
3. Certain mixed conductive and inner ear hearing losses.
4. Single sided inner ear (sensorineural) hearing loss of a profound degree.

HOW DOES A BAHA WORK?

A BAHA relies on the fact that the skull bones are excellent transmitters of sound. The sound from the device is transmitted efficiently to both inner ears, effectively bypassing the middle ear. Sound is converted by the bone anchored hearing device to vibrations which pass through the implanted screw to the skull bones and thence to both inner ears. These are sound vibrations rather than feeling sensations.

A BAHA consists of two main components;

1. A small titanium implant that is surgically inserted into the bone of the skull behind the ear. This implanted portion is permanent and projects above the skin.
2. A hearing device which is clipped on or removed from the implant as required.

