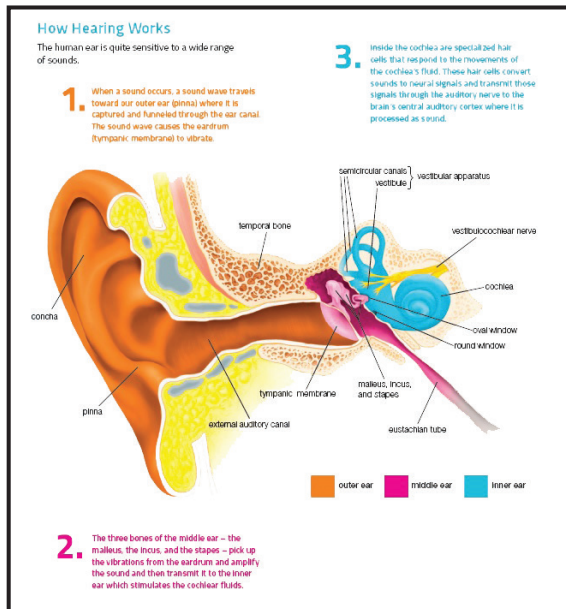


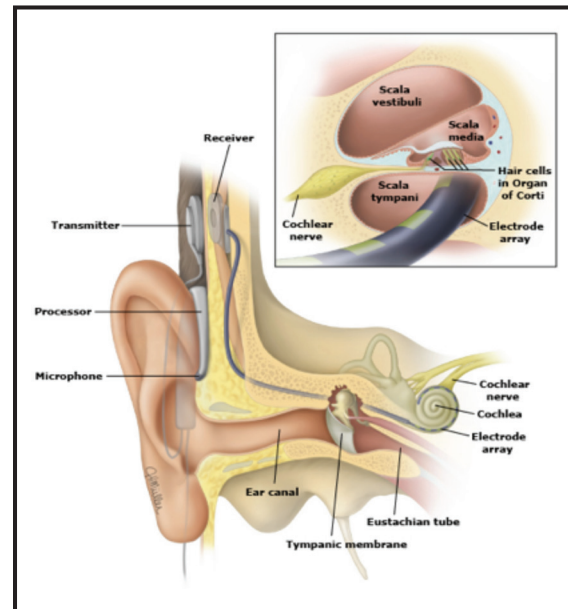
# Cochlear Implants

## What is a cochlear implant?

- Cochlear implants are surgically implanted prosthetic devices that use electrical stimulation to provide hearing.
- When hearing functions normally, parts of the inner ear convert sound waves into electrical impulses. These impulses are sent to the brain, where they are recognized as sound. A cochlear implant stimulates this process.



Normal Hearing



Cochlear Implant

## Will a cochlear implant restore my normal hearing or deafness?

- A cochlear implant is a communication tool, but not a cure for deafness.
- Most people say the sound is more mechanical, but you get used to this with time.

## Will I have to replace the implant over time?

- The implants unit is designed to last a lifetime. The externally worn speech processor, which is responsible for converting sound into code and sending the information to the internal unit, is dependent on software that can be upgraded as technology improves.

## Can people with cochlear implants swim, shower and participate in sports?

- People with cochlear implants can swim, shower and participate in virtually all types of sports when they are not wearing the external equipment. The only restriction is skydiving and scuba diving due to pressure changes.

