

Tim Mitchell

Hello, my name's Tim Mitchell. I'm one of the surgeons here at the Auditory Implant Service. I've been a Consultant Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon in Southampton for over sixteen years, and I've been working here at the implant centre for about 10 years. I'm a member of the West Team, who will be looking after you when you come to the implant centre, and I will see you for a medical appointment.

At that medical appointment, I will ask you questions about the history of your hearing loss and any other medical conditions. I will need to examine your ears, will then talk through with you the assessment process, how cochlear implants work, and what is needed before surgery. I'll also talk you through the issues around surgery, and then arrange for you to have some scans of your ears if you haven't had those done already.

The operation is done under general anaesthetic, so you will be totally asleep for it, and usually requires 1 night in hospital. It's not a major operation, but it takes about 2 to 3 hours because we're working in a small and fiddly area. There are some risks to the operation, but these are small, and I will go through those with you when I see you at the Auditory Implant Centre.

After the operation, you'll have a bandage covering the ear that we've operated on, and that will be taken off the following morning before you go home. We arrange for you to have an x-ray to check the implant is in a good position, and that's done on the morning after the operation before you go home. And then you'll come to see me about 2 weeks after the operation at the Implant Centre to make sure the wound behind the ear has healed, and everything looks ok. You'll then have a series of appointments starting a few weeks after that with the audiologists for tuning of the implant.

I'm sure you'll have a lot of questions that you'll want to ask when you come to see us at the Auditory Implant Centre, and I'll be very pleased to answer those when I see you. I look forward to seeing you when you come.