



THE COCHLEAR IMPLANT GROUP OF INDIA

(Registered under the Karnataka Societies Registration Act 1960, Reg. No 728/2003-2004)

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Advisory regarding COVID -19 pandemic from CIGI

8th April 2020

We are very concerned about the COVID-19 pandemic and our thoughts are with everyone affected. We thank healthcare workers for their commitment in these challenging times.

The following guidelines are intended to standardize Cochlear Implant Surgery, Audiology & Re/Habilitation services during the COVID-19 pandemic. These are being suggested to provide highest quality health care and at the same time allowing optimal protection of our service providers and the population we look after.

Surgery:

Cochlear implantation is an elective procedure in majority of cases and is not considered an emergency. However, if there is an impending risk of losing inner ear access (e.g. post meningitis), the surgery can be undertaken as an urgent procedure.

Routine pediatric cochlear implantation should not be made to wait for more than 3 months. Adult cochlear implantation may however wait for more than 3 months. In a patient needing explantation, pain and implant exposure are indications for surgery on an urgent basis.

Audiology and Re/Habilitation:

Both these services are not emergency healthcare services. Considering present government guidelines, it wouldn't be possible to provide services in person. Wherever possible, it is recommended to utilize Tele services for troubleshooting and therapy. Please adhere to guidelines available in each state for practicing telemedicine. The families, caregivers and recipients (in case of adults) need to understand and agree to the Tele service delivery. The procurement of accessories, batteries etc. may be affected since courier services are not readily available. This may understandably cause disruptions in listening in some cases, but safety and health are bigger concerns at this juncture. Hopefully the companies can provide services as soon as these service chains are reestablished.

Once the lockdown is relaxed and in line with government guidelines, it is deemed appropriate to provide the services.

Urgent cases: - need to be scheduled as soon as possible

- Hearing device is nonfunctional or not functioning appropriately
- Switch-on pending from pre-lockdown period
- Pre-Cochlear Implantation evaluations only for post-meningitis cases

Non-Urgent cases: - advisable to wait up to 1 month

- Routine hearing device checks and mapping
- Bluetooth and wireless connectivity troubleshooting
- All other Pre-Cochlear Implantation evaluations
- Therapy to be continued through tele practice services

Stay healthy, Stay safe.

(Ref: [Stanford Otolaryngology-Neurotology COVID-19 Pandemic Guidelines for Patient Care](#))

*This is not a medicolegal document. Decisions may be taken on a case by case basis and in concordance to the prevalent circumstances.

**Address for Correspondence : Ms. Nishita Mohandas, Secretary, Cochlear Implant Group of India, B/26 Greenfields, Kapad Bazar Road, Mahim, Mumbai-400016, India.
Email: nishitamohandas@gmail.com**