

Guy's and St Thomas'

NHS Foundation Trust



St Thomas' Hearing Implant Centre

One team providing care for life

Our specialist team
improves quality of life
for children and adults
with hearing loss.



showing
we **care**

Our team

Our specialist team is at the cutting-edge of hearing implant technology and research, and supports patients at every stage of their care.

The team includes consultant surgeons, audiological scientists, speech and language therapists, hearing therapists, teachers of the deaf, clinical psychologists, specialist radiologists and specialist nurses.



Overview

Our world leading specialist team offers the full range of hearing implants available for children and adults. We work in partnership with our patients, their families and local health professionals during each patient's assessment, treatment and aftercare.

Our children's team is one of the few that offers regular outreach visits to a child's home or educational setting. The team is also very experienced in working with children and adults who have additional needs and/or multi-sensory impairments.

We provide a specialist clinic for children and adults with external ear malformations and hearing loss. This is one of the few of its kind in the country and includes ear, plastic and maxillofacial surgeons as well as experts in prosthetics. We work closely with the department of radiology.

We have an ongoing research programme, present at international conferences, and regularly conduct clinical audits.

We also provide internationally renowned training courses and wherever possible accommodate visits from health professionals.

Guy's, St Thomas' and Evelina Children's hospitals are easily accessible by car or public transport.

*"After the operation I felt
more alive and happy
because I could hear better.
I didn't like to wear
my old hearing aid, but
I wear my new one all day.
Sometimes I forget
I'm wearing it!
Everyone at school
has been amazed –
at first they thought
it was a hair clip!
I love it."*

Kiron Aleya Al Rashid
(Young MEI user)



What we offer

Comprehensive service

Providing diagnosis, assessment for hearing and balance, hearing aid fittings, hearing implants, and rehabilitation.

Cutting edge technology

Offering the latest implants from all major implant companies, and the most recent software and processors.

Every type of implant, for any type and severity of hearing loss

Offering cochlear implants, electric-acoustic stimulation implants (EAS), middle ear implants (MEI), bone anchored hearing aids (Baha), and auditory brainstem implants (for non neurofibromatosis type 2 patients).

Integrated children's and adult implant service

Ensures young patients' care has a smooth transition from children's to adult services.

First rate care and follow up

Providing individualised assessment to identify specific patient and families needs; family support throughout assessment and post operation (including home visits), regular upgrades of external implant equipment; and overnight accommodation for families who live far from the hospital. Evelina has specialist paediatric anaesthetists and facilities to manage surgery for very young babies.

State of the art facilities

Including a bilateral test suite with state-of-the-art 'crescent of sound speech perception testing equipment' to accurately assess the outcomes of patients. For young patients undergoing surgery, Evelina London has specialist staff (e.g, play specialists) and a large play area to ensure the experience is as comfortable as possible.

World-leading expertise

Our team of surgeons pioneer hearing preservation techniques in surgery. Our surgeons are board members of recognised councils and advisory bodies, such as the Royal Society of Medicine. We have extensive experience with every implant device and hearing aid; have more experience with middle ear implants than anywhere else in the UK; and are often asked to test and validate devices and instruments, collaborating with manufacturers. The hardest to treat cases are often referred here from all over the UK.

"We can't speak highly enough of the cochlear implant team. From the first appointment we've felt well informed and cared for at every stage. We've particularly appreciated the continuity of having the same lead audiologist and SALT since the beginning, as it means they have a deep understanding of our son's history and needs. The whole team combines excellent professional expertise with fantastic patient care."

Charlotte Kuhn
(mother of Nathaniel,
a bilateral sequential CI user)



First class rehabilitation

Hearing centres around the world use the resources we develop, such as the **STARR sentence test**, a web based speech perception training module for adults, and **musical journey through the rainforest** and **musical baby beats** resources for children. Adult patients are supported with hearing therapy, and speech and language therapy. The children's team works closely with parents, local education and health professionals to support children in their home and school environment. Every child has a key ToD and SALT; regular home and school visits to make sure their implants work optimally in their everyday environments. As part of working in partnership, free training is offered to local professionals locally or at our implant centre.

Quotes from local professionals from a service evaluation (2012)

"I have found Guy's and St Thomas' cochlear implant team to be the most experienced, thorough and sensitive team I have dealt with concerning the implantation of teenagers. Well done!"

"We appreciate the fact that it is always easy to get hold of a member of the cochlear implant team when there is a problem or question. If not available, someone always phones back from the team."

Complex needs (children)

We welcome referrals for children with additional needs and complex disorders. We carry out collaborative assessments with the neurodisability team at St Thomas'. Our comprehensive clinical psychology service is unique, and provides a cognitive/developmental assessment for every child; specialist psychology support for children who have anxiety around surgery; and other long term therapeutic input and support pre and post implant.

Complex needs (adult)

We support adult patients with mobility issues and with additional needs such as autistic spectrum disorder or learning difficulties; and if necessary conduct home visits. We work closely with the neurofibromatosis type 2 team and provide cochlear implant and hearing rehabilitation support post surgery for adults with neurofibromatosis type 2.

Innovation

The joint specialist plastics, prosthetics, maxillofacial and ENT clinic offers unique collaborative management to patients with hearing loss and outer ear deformity. We are leading the way in paediatric vibrant soundbridge, bonebridge, electric-acoustic stimulation implants (EAS).

Research

The team regularly presents at national and international conferences; publishes research findings in reputable peer reviewed journals. We have an extensive research portfolio working within King's Health Partners. We are involved in collaborative research for cochlear regeneration, optimising hearing implant devices and post operative rehabilitation. We also work collaboratively with other implant centres and implant companies, and are actively involved in departmental and national audits that drive policy and set national standards. We provide postgraduate education for MD, PhD and MSc in conjunction with King's College London and UCL.

*"My implants have made
a huge difference to my life;
I don't even know
that I'm wearing them
because they're so comfortable!
My voice sounds normal again,
I no longer struggle to fit my
glasses on with my hearing aids
and my ears don't get sore
and uncomfortable.
When I put the implants on
in the morning they bring
the world alive!"*

Hilary Lagden
(bilateral MEI user)



Referrals

Referrals will be considered from ENT consultants, audiological physicians, scientists and technicians, paediatricians, speech and language therapists, teachers of the deaf, and family doctors.

To send a referral or request specialist information please email:

Paediatric services

katherine.wilson@gstt.nhs.uk or
sandra.driver@gstt.nhs.uk

Adult services

terry.nunn@gstt.nhs.uk or
jennifer.demler@gstt.nhs.uk

For general information or enquiries about appointments
please contact:

t: 020 7188 6245 **f:** 020 7188 8905

e: AIAdmin@gstt.nhs.uk (appointments),
auditoryimplants@gstt.nhs.uk (repairs and spares)

w: www.gstt.nhs.uk/auditoryimplants



"Thomas wasn't a straightforward case for the cochlear implant team. There were numerous discussions and assessments before we agreed to go ahead. All of this was handled with careful thought and sensitivity towards Thomas and us as a family, which made the whole journey much easier for us to understand and process. We have absolutely no regrets – it has completely transformed Thomas' life as he feels so much more part of everything that is going on around him."

Georgina Melville-Ross
(mother of Thomas,
a complex needs patient with CI)

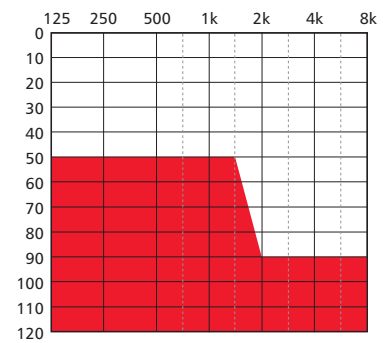
Referral criteria

Cochlear Implant (CI)

- Pure tone average >70dBHL at .5, 1, 2, 4kHz or >90dBHL at 2 and 4 kHz in the worse ear
- Limited benefit from hearing aids
- Children: do **not** wait for speech/language delay
- Congenital, acquired, progressive, sudden onset

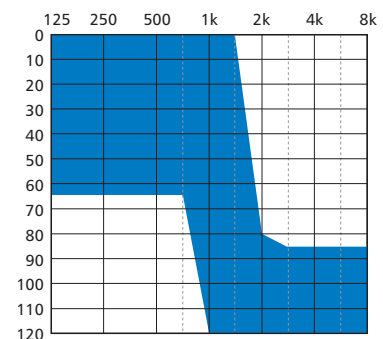
Auditory Brainstem Implant (ABI)

- Unsuitable for CI
- Non-neurofibromatosis type 2
- Cochlear nerve aplasia
- Cochlear obliteration (otosclerosis, ossification)
- Cochlear nerve avulsion (skull base fracture)



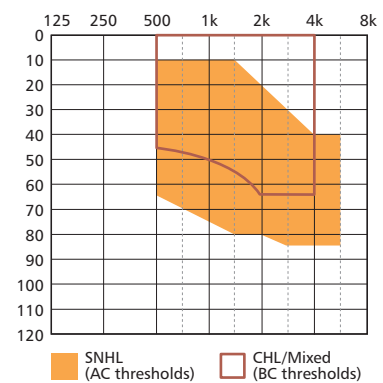
Electric-Acoustic Stimulation (EAS)

- Air Conduction (AC) thresholds within shaded area
- Stable sensorineural hearing loss (SNHL)
- No air-bone gap >15dBHL
- Limited benefit from hearing aids
- No external ear contraindications to wearing an earmould



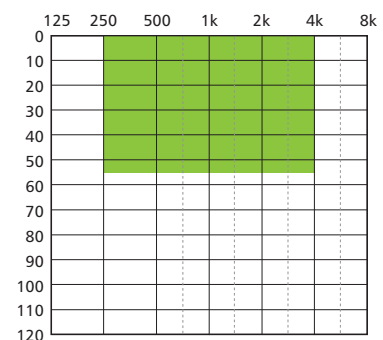
Middle Ear Implant (MEI)

- SNHL (AC thresholds within orange shaded area) or Mixed/CHL (BC thresholds within brown outline)
- Stable hearing loss
- Inability to wear conventional hearing aids due to medical reasons (e.g., chronic otitis media, psoriasis, congenital malformations of ear canal/pinna, allergies, exostoses, furunculosis, etc)
- No retrocochlear or central auditory disorders



Bone Anchored Hearing Devices

- Bone Conduction thresholds within green area
- Inability to wear conventional hearing aids (e.g., Chronic otitis media or otitis externa, congenital malformations, otosclerosis, recurrent ear infections due to hearing aid usage)
- Unilateral profound SNHL, with normal BC thresholds in the better hearing ear



Visits and training

Wherever possible we try to accommodate visits from health professionals.

Our specialists teach and lecture both around the UK and globally. We run internationally renowned courses, such as the London temporal bone course and London Middle Ear Implant Course.



To arrange a visit, or to request details of the training courses please email:

Paediatric services

katherine.wilson@gstt.nhs.uk or
sandra.driver@gstt.nhs.uk

Adult services

terry.nunn@gstt.nhs.uk or
jennifer.demler@gstt.nhs.uk

Location

Our hospitals are situated in central London, at main transport hubs. St Thomas' and Evelina Children's hospitals are at Waterloo, and Guy's is at London Bridge. Both Waterloo and London Bridge are easily accessible by the London Underground, rail, bus, or car. Travel reimbursement and patient transport may be available for certain patients.

Hearing Implant Centre

ENT department
2nd floor, Lambeth Wing
St Thomas' Hospital
Westminster Bridge Road
London SE1 7EH

t: 020 7188 6245

f: 020 7188 8905

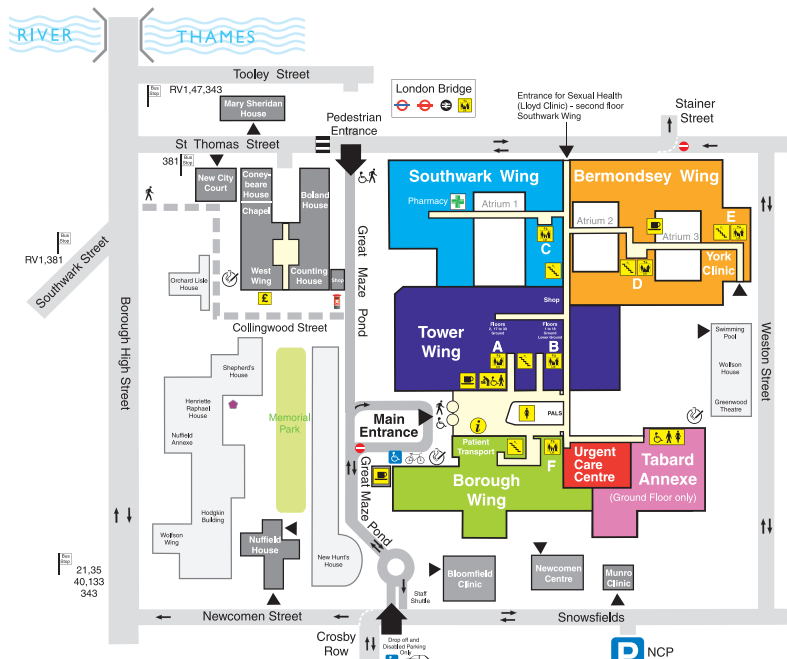


Adult pre-assessment and surgery

ENT department
Southwark Wing
Guy's Hospital
Great Maze Pond
London SE1 9RT

t: 020 7188 2211

f: 020 7188 0713



e: AIAdmin@gstt.nhs.uk (appointments),
auditoryimplants@gstt.nhs.uk (repairs and spares)

w: www.gstt.nhs.uk/auditoryimplants

Contact us

For more information about our services
visit the Trust website www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk

Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust

St Thomas' Hospital, Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7EH

Guy's Hospital, Great Maze Pond, London SE1 9RT

Switchboard: 020 7188 7188

Date published: March 2013

© 2013 Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust