

## Who is a cochlear implant candidate

A person who may be a candidate for a cochlear implant often struggles to hear those around them even with appropriately fit hearing aids.

A hearing aid will make sounds louder, which for most individuals is enough to give them clarity of speech.

For example, if you are listening to a Seattle radio station and driving towards Everett, it would become static sounding as you drive further away, getting worse the further away from Seattle you get. Ultimately, you could turn the volume up, but it would not get rid of the static.

When you have severe damage to the hair cells in your inner ear, a hearing aid can add volume but will not give you clarity. That is where a cochlear implant comes in and can give you back clarity of speech.

FDA criteria for CI candidacy is less than 60% speech understanding in the better ear and less than 50% in the ear to be implanted.