

Contralateral routing of signals (CROS) hearing aids

Information for patients

This leaflet answers common questions about contralateral routing of signals (CROS) hearing aids. If you would like further information or have any particular worries, please do not hesitate to ask your audiologist.

In all cases, an audiologist will explain the CROS hearing aid to you and answer any questions you may have.

What is a CROS hearing aid?

A CROS hearing aid is a specialist listening device used for people who have partial hearing in one ear and little to no hearing in the other ear. It involves wearing a device on each ear. A conventional hearing aid is worn on the ear with better hearing, and a microphone is worn on the more affected or deaf ear.



When a sound comes into your worse ear, the microphone sitting on top of this ear picks up the sound and sends it over to the hearing aid on your other better ear via wireless technology.

How will the CROS hearing aid look?

The CROS hearing aid is very discrete, there is a small lightweight device that sits comfortably behind each ear and a lightweight tube that sits inside the ear to keep the device securely in place.



People who are suitable for a CROS hearing aid:

You may be suitable for a CROS hearing aid if:

- you have very poor or no hearing in one ear.
- you have a hearing aid that is too unclear or distorted in your most affected ear.
- you can't wear a hearing aid due to previous surgery or ear infections.

What can I expect from a CROS hearing aid?

The benefits of wearing a CROS hearing aid vary from person to person. The CROS hearing aid can give some awareness of sound coming in from the worse ear. It can also help to reduce hearing difficulties which can be associated with listening through one ear.

When you are surrounded by background noise it's unlikely that wearing a CROS hearing aid will improve how well you hear, as it will be difficult to work out the exact direction of where sounds are coming from.

About your appointment

If you are suitable for a CROS hearing aid and would like to try one, the audiology department will arrange for you to have an appointment with an audiologist to have one fitted.

The appointment will take approximately one hour. At the appointment, the audiologist will make sure that the device is comfortable, that it is working correctly and then they will show you how to use it.

Alternatives to CROS hearing aids

Your audiologist will recommend that you try the device for six to eight weeks to get used to the sound. If you are finding that the device is of limited benefit to you, the audiologist may

recommend alternatives such as a conventional hearing aid or a bone-anchored hearing aid (BAHA).

Other approaches such as listening devices, lip-reading classes or communication tactics can also be considered.

Do you have any further questions?

If you have any further questions, please contact the audiology department on **020 8375 1117** or email:

rf-tr.audiologyadmin@nhs.net.

Acknowledgement

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More information

For more information about the audiology service at the Royal Free London, please visit our website:

www.royalfree.nhs.uk/audiology

Your feedback

If you have any feedback on this leaflet or for a list of references for it, please email: rf.communications@nhs.net

Alternative formats

This leaflet is also available in large print. If you need this leaflet in another format – for example Braille, a language other than English or audio – please speak to a member of staff.

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