

Cochlear Implant Precautions

Please note that cochlear implants are constantly being upgraded. There are also different manufacturers whose implants have different features and variability due to the generation of the implant. Please discuss these precautions with the parents to ensure that they apply.

➤ Static Electricity- (when the processor is worn)

- Static electricity may compromise the programming of some processors. It will not physically harm the child. All companies have taken steps to make their product “more static friendly”. The type of processor should be taken into consideration before making general restrictions. Consult the parents and implant manufacturer for their policy on static precautions according to the specific model the child wears.

In general:

- Med-El has a reboot feature which reboots the processor before the program is compromised. Many families have chosen to allow their children to wear their processors within static environments due to this feature.
- Clarion is less static prone due to the metal casing on the body worn processor. The behind the ear processors have shorter cords thus making them less static prone. Many families have chosen to allow their children to wear the processor within static environments.
- Nucleus continues to have some incidences with static due to the plastic casing of the body worn processor. Newer cord design changes have helped decrease static although incidences still occur. Behind the ear processors are less likely to incur static discharges.

The following should be avoided upon determining static precautions are necessary:

- Plastic slides, tunnels and ball pits
- Plastic blow up furniture
- “Cozy Coupe” car with roof
- Large Trampolines
- Parachutes used in gym class (the game played where children run under a large piece of fabric)
- Science experiments which involve static electricity

➤ Magnetic Fields (at all times)

- Strong magnetic fields or extremely strong pull magnets such as found in a science museum should be avoided due to the internal magnet.
- Different manufacturers of cochlear implants and different years within the same type have varying compatibility with Magnetic Resonance Imagery. Some magnets must be removed while some can have an MRI but with limitations. A statement should be listed on the child’s school health form regarding MRI compatibility in case an emergency occurred.

➤ Moisture

- In general water should not contact the headset or the processor and extreme damp conditions should be avoided. The new “Freedom” cochlear implant from Nucleus is water resistant but should not be submerged.
- Never blow-dry the implant if it has come in contact with moisture. Contact the parents or implant manufacturer immediately.