

Advanced Bionics® realizes that choosing a cochlear implant can be both exciting and challenging. Tens of thousands of people like you have chosen cochlear implants made by Advanced Bionics to restore hearing for themselves or their children. Reliability of both the internal and external components of the system is an important factor in choosing and living with a cochlear implant. Advanced Bionics is committed to the reliability of its products and to delivering life-long innovations that improve the quality of life for individuals and families who choose a HiResolution Bionic Ear. This report will provide you with the accurate reliability information you need to help you select the cochlear implant that is right for you.

Implant reliability for today's HiRes® 90K

In accordance with international standards, Advanced Bionics uses Cumulative Survival Rate (CSR) to report on the reliability of the implants it builds. CSR is used because it conveys the likelihood of a device continuing to function over time. These measurements help answer the question often asked by candidates (or parents): "What is the likelihood my (child's) device will be functioning in one, two, three years, and beyond?"

According to the international standard, a device failure is defined as any device having one or more characteristics outside the manufacturer's specifications. Advanced Bionics imposes an even stricter standard as part of its Quality Policy by counting all devices removed for other than medical reasons as failed devices. This standard exceeds what is recommended by the organizations that set standards and differs from the methods used by some other cochlear implant manufacturers. Differences in the definition of device failure across manufacturers make direct comparison of reliability statistics challenging. Ultimately, Advanced Bionics abides by the clinical judgment of surgeons and audiologists regarding the best course of action to meet individual hearing needs.

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At Advanced Bionics, improving device reliability is an ongoing commitment. Based on thorough investigation and testing, we make modifications to continuously improve implant reliability. In early 2005, process and component improvements were made to improve HiRes 90K reliability. As a result, HiRes 90K implants being implanted today demonstrate a two-and-a-half-year CSR of 99.1%—representing high reliability consistent with industry standards (Figure 1).

External Reliability of today's Auria® Harmony™ BTE (Harmony) and Platinum Series™ Sound Processor (PSP)

Reliability is the #1 goal for the entire HiResolution Bionic Ear System, including the sound processor. The Harmony's extremely low monthly return rate reflects the high reliability of the system (Table 1). A major reason for Harmony's reliability is its two-fold advanced water protection system. First, the Xylex® case is designed to shed moisture and resist water penetration. Second, the internal circuit boards have been treated with a "conformal coating", a **waterproof layer** over all the internal components. Effectively, this is a second protective layer, designed to ensure that water, sweat or even dust particles will not cause damage to the electronic components. So, with this moisture resistant design, you don't have to worry about sweat, raindrops, and splashes! The Bionic Ear's industry-leading reliability means fewer repairs and minimal unexpected interruptions in hearing. You have the peace of mind that you or your child can count on your cochlear implant for better hearing at work, school, or play!

	Return Rate
Harmony BTE	1.5%
Platinum Series™ Sound Processor	0.9%

Table 1: Average monthly percentage (12-month period ending DATE) of processors returned for repair. These numbers represent industry-leading reliability and durability for sound processors.

The people of Advanced Bionics are committed to making products that meet or exceed your expectations for quality, performance, and reliability. For more information about the HiResolution Bionic Ear System, please visit our website at: www.BionicEar.com.

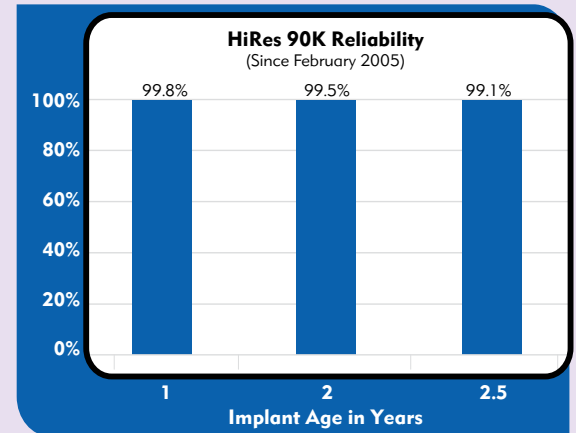


Figure 1. CSRs for HiRes 90K implants manufactured since February 1, 2005—representative of the reliability of devices currently being manufactured.



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