



answers

to 10 Top Cochlear Implant Questions



Advanced Bionics

AB is the Answer to Your Cochlear Implant Questions

Selecting the right cochlear implant system for you or your child is a significant decision. For something as critical as your ability to hear, you don't want to compromise on quality or performance. You need the most technologically advanced, best performing cochlear implant system available. As the performance leader, Advanced Bionics relies on science to prove that the **Harmony™ HiResolution™ Bionic Ear System (Harmony)** delivers unparalleled performance and convenience.

The following 10 questions and answers are intended to show that when you choose AB, you are making the right choice for the right reason—to hear your best.





delivers...

Best Technology

What is the most technologically advanced cochlear implant system today?

Only AB delivers the best performance by offering the Harmony Advantage—the industry’s most advanced technology—to bring you five times more resolution than any other cochlear implant system. The Harmony™ System from AB is designed to work effectively in virtually any location, including environments where hearing well—even with two healthy ears—can be challenging. Studies show that Harmony recipients hear better in real world situations than patients with other cochlear implant systems.^{1,2} The Harmony Advantage, only from AB, lets you hear your best everywhere, every time.

Top Reliability

Overall, which cochlear implant system has the best reliability?

Today’s AB Harmony cochlear system is number one in “Total System Reliability”—the reliability of both the internal and external components.³⁻⁵ Made to last, Harmony’s HiRes 90K™ implant demonstrates very high reliability with a 99.6% two-year cumulative survival rate (CSR),³ a measure that defines the likelihood of a device continuing to function over time. AB’s external processor has the lowest average three-month failure rate of less than 1%.³ All of the Harmony sound processor’s internal electronics feature a three-year warranty on a two-fold advanced water protection: a Xylex™ case resists water penetration and a special coating provides a waterproof barrier. Every patient’s experience matters, so we continue to make reliability our first priority, ensuring that you can count on Harmony to keep you hearing your best day after day.

A New Era for Cochlear Implants

How will I benefit from AB joining the Sonova Group?

The Sonova Group brings together Advanced Bionics and Phonak, a global provider of micro hearing systems. You can expect AB to continue offering you a lifetime of support as well as making strides toward delivering the best performing, smallest, and easiest-to-use sound processor in the cochlear implant industry. Both pioneers in their fields, AB and Phonak have 75 years of combined experience in engineering innovative hearing solutions for those with hearing loss.

Full Upgradeability

How can I benefit from future technology if I get a cochlear implant now?

AB understands that nobody wants to go through the process of receiving a cochlear implant only to discover that a better model is available a few months later. When you choose a cochlear implant system from AB, you benefit from superior internal technology now and external upgradeability for the future so that your hearing advances as the technology does—without the need for surgery. You can count on AB to improve your quality of life.



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Hearing in Noise

Will I be able to hear in difficult listening situations?

Hearing in noise is a common challenge for everyone, but especially for people with hearing loss. Independent research shows that AB recipients hear better in noise than the competitor's recipients.^{1,6} Whether you're at a dinner party, wedding, or networking event, you want to easily participate in the lively discussions that take place—not struggle to keep up with the conversation, so it's important to choose the cochlear implant system designed to perform well in these challenging situations.

Ease of Use

Is AB's Harmony System easy to use?

Harmony uses the most sophisticated technology to deliver clearer, high resolution sound, optimizing your hearing no matter where you are without you having to adjust your sound processor. AutoSound™ automatically adapts to your surroundings without the hassle of changing programs or settings, so there's no fumbling with dials, switches or remote controls. The patented T-Mic™ microphone is the only microphone placed naturally at the opening of the ear for highly focused hearing, allowing you to use headphones, cell phones and other devices the way people with normal hearing do. Harmony can be easily integrated with a Phonak Dynamic FM system to take advantage of the benefits of these high-tech wireless systems.



Music Enjoyment

Will I be able to enjoy music?

Harmony's HiRes Fidelity™ 120* sound processing is the only strategy that can implement simultaneous current steering to deliver the dimensions of music (loudness, pitch, timing) for a full musical experience. AutoSound's™ programmable wide Input Dynamic Range (IDR) and automatic volume control adjust automatically so that you don't miss a note. And the naturally placed T-Mic™ microphone makes it effortless to use your MP3 player. This advanced technology only from AB works in concert so that you hear your best.

Sound Solutions for Seniors

Which cochlear implant system is the best choice for seniors?

Advanced Bionics is a superior choice for seniors seeking to restore their hearing with a cochlear implant. With easy-to-change power options that slide on quickly, the Harmony Behind-the-Ear processor is comfortable and convenient. And AutoSound technology automatically adapts to the environment, just like a normal-hearing ear, so there's no need to continually make adjustments. Those who prefer an off-the-ear option may opt for the PSP, a discreet, yet durable choice with a long battery life and large, tactile controls for those with dexterity and vision challenges. With either processor, an AB cochlear implant system is the ideal solution for seniors to regain the confidence that comes with hearing their best.



Build Kid-Tough

Which cochlear implant system is the best choice for kids?

AB has designed Harmony to be as intuitive and kid-friendly as possible, helping little ears hear big by making a cochlear implant system more effortless, convenient, and comfortable for pediatric patients. The most important kid-friendly feature is performance. With AB's sound processing, children have the best opportunity to learn to talk and succeed in a world alongside their hearing peers.⁷ New accessories for kids include a Platinum Series™ Processor (PSP) bilateral harness that holds and protects two processors, a Bionic Buddy Critter Clip that secures the processor to clothing, a Snuggie™ that securely fits over little ears to keep the active child's processor in place, and the Small iConnect™ that provides cable-free connectivity to FM systems commonly used in schools. The Kinder Clip and the off-the-ear power** option both allow the Harmony System to grow with your child from infancy to adulthood.

Lifelong Partnership

How will I be supported on my journey to hearing?

AB believes in putting our patients first. That's why AB offers a whole range of services to ensure you receive the support you need. From our technical support hotline and insurance reimbursement services to our comprehensive warranty and 48-hour product replacement programs, we're here to make the journey to hearing easier for patients and professionals alike. Wherever you are in the world, AB is your partner for life.

A photograph of a young girl with long brown hair and a woman with short, styled blonde hair and glasses. They are both smiling and looking down at something out of frame. The woman is wearing a light blue top and a necklace with a circular pendant. The girl is wearing a grey top. The background is softly blurred, showing what appears to be a window with curtains.

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1. Spahr A, Dorman MF, Loisel LH. 2007. Performance of Patients Using Different Cochlear Implant Systems: Effects of Input Dynamic Range. *Ear and Hearing*. 28 (2): 260–275. 2. Haumann S, Büchner A, Lenarz Th. Does the Input Dynamic Range of Cochlear Implant Processors Influence Speech Perception in Adverse Listening Situations? Oral Presentation at the 10th International Conference on Cochlear Implant and Other Implantable Auditory Technologies, San Diego, CA, April 10–12, 2008. 3. Advanced Bionics Consumer Reliability Report. 2009. 4. <http://products.cochlearamericas.com/cochlear-implants/our-cochlear-implants-products/nucleus-freedom-reliability>. May 3, 2010. 5. www.medel.com/reliability. May 3, 2010. 6. Gifford R. Speech Perception in a Realistic Background Noise: Effectiveness of Preprocessing Strategies and External Options for Improving the Signal-to-Noise Ratio. Oral Presentation at the 10th International Conference on Cochlear Implant and Other Implantable Auditory Technologies, San Diego, CA, April 10–12, 2008. 7. Bevilacqua et al. Auditory and Language Abilities in Children: Comparison of Two Different Cochlear Implant Systems. Poster Presentation at the 10th International Conference on Cochlear Implants and Other Implantable Auditory Technologies, San Diego, CA, April 10–12, 2008.

* HiRes Fidelity 120 is not approved for pediatric patients in the United States.

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To learn more about AB and its revolutionary cochlear implant technology, please contact a Bionic Ear Association representative today.

Call **866.844.HEAR (4327)**
Email **hear@AdvancedBionics.com**
Visit **AdvancedBionics.com**

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