

# Research Opportunity for Children with Hearing Loss

## What is this research about?

Your child may be eligible to join a research study. This study will look at how hearing aids and cochlear implants help children who have deafness in one ear, but hear better in the other ear. This type of hearing loss is called asymmetric hearing loss (the better ear has some hearing loss but is not deaf) or single-sided deafness (the better ear has normal or near-normal hearing). Hearing researcher, Dr. Jill Firszt, has partnered with Pediatric Audiology teams around the United States to learn more about how a cochlear implant in the deaf ear can help children who have asymmetric hearing loss or single-sided deafness.

## Who can join the study?

- Children between 4 - 14 years of age who have asymmetric hearing loss or single sided deafness.
- Child and caregiver are interested in trying a hearing device to improve hearing. A hearing aid will be tried first. A cochlear implant will be considered if recommended by the clinical team and if the family is interested.
- Child and caregiver must be fluent in English.
- Child is able to do study testing: hearing tests, speech understanding tests, finding a sound in the environment, etc.

## What will happen during the study?

- The study has 2 parts or phases, a 4-month hearing aid phase and then a 15-month cochlear implant phase.
- Over the course of these 20 months, your child will be seen for a number of study visits. Many of these visits are similar to the clinical appointments needed for audiology care. Your team will do their best to coordinate study visits with clinical visits to minimize time and travel.
- In the hearing aid phase, your child will be fitted with a hearing aid and wear it for at least 4 months. Test sessions during this phase of the study will occur every 4 weeks.
- Next, if your child is clinically eligible and interested in a cochlear implant, your clinical team will request cochlear implant coverage through your child's health insurance. If cochlear implant surgery and the device kit are approved by insurance and/or financially viable for your family, your child will move to the cochlear implant phase of the study.
- In the cochlear implant phase, your child will undergo cochlear implant surgery in the deaf ear and will wear a speech processor at that ear for at least the remainder of the study. During the cochlear implant phase, your child will complete study testing every 3 months for 15 months. Each session lasts about 1.5 hours.
- You will be paid \$15 per hour for each hour of study testing. Parking fees will be reimbursed and mileage will be paid at the current government rate for each study visit.
- If you need overnight lodging, coverage of hotel costs may be considered.

## How can I learn more?

Contact your local study team through St. Louis Children's Hospital at:

Jamie Cadieux: [cadieuxih@wustl.edu](mailto:cadieuxih@wustl.edu) or 314-454-2503