

Mike Pringle

Hello, my name's Mike Pringle. I'm one of the surgeons here, and I have had the great privilege of working here at the Auditory Implant Service since 1997. I look after the patients to the east of Southampton, and I will meet you or your child at the initial appointment.

When you come for your initial assessment, I will take a full history, and I'll want to find out all about your deafness: when it started, how it has progressed, and the various treatments you've had, and whether you have had any other problems with your ears, your nose or your throat. Then I'll want to know about any other general medical problems you have had, any medications that you are taking and any family history of deafness.

Then I will examine your ears, and then we will go through the hearing test results together, and then talk about the treatment, which is most likely to be a cochlear implant. I will tell you all about cochlear implants, what they are and how they work, and we will talk all about surgery and the risks of surgery.

The operation itself nowadays is very routine. It takes about 1½ to 3 hours to do, and most patients do extremely well afterwards with very few problems. It's possible sometimes for people to get some tinnitus which is usually short-lived, or to get some problems with balance which again is usually short-lived.

When you wake up after the operation, you will have a large bandage on your head. That will stay on overnight and come off the following morning. Usually the following morning we will x-ray the implant area, and I will show you those x-rays when you come back for your post-operative out-patient visit. So when you leave hospital you will have some dressing in your ear, so it might feel blocked, and I will take that out when I see you a week or 10 days later, and we'll give you some antibiotics to take for 5 days and some simple painkillers.

So during the assessment, I'll be happy to answer any questions you might have, and it's always worth writing them down so you don't forget them when we meet.

I'm looking forward very much to meeting you or your child here at the Auditory Implant Service.