



Cochlear Implant Batteries

Cochlear implants use batteries to provide the power for the external processor. It is important for you and other caregivers to know what batteries your child's implant uses, how long the batteries usually last, how to check if the batteries are working, and to understand battery safety.

Most cochlear implants can be powered by either disposable or rechargeable batteries.

Disposable batteries have a tab that covers the holes on one side of the battery. The battery is activated when you remove the tab. Take the tab off the battery about 2 minutes before putting it in the processor. Each implant uses two to three batteries, depending on the type of processor.

Disposable batteries will last between 30 to 60 hours. This varies because the life of the battery is influenced by how your child's implant is mapped. Talk with your audiologist about battery life and where to purchase batteries.

You can use a battery tester to check how your child's disposable battery is working. There are several types, but they work in essentially the same way. Place the battery on the tester. If a battery is good, there will be an indicator bar or line that shows you the strength of the battery. If the battery is losing strength, it is best to change the battery.

Rechargeable batteries are different for each cochlear implant, and they come in different sizes.

Rechargeable batteries will last between 8 to 16 hours. Battery life varies based on the manufacturer and how your child's implant is mapped. It is best to charge them each night while your child is sleeping. Rechargeable batteries have a 1 year warranty. If they stop working talk to your audiologist about getting it replaced.

If your child has a remote control for their cochlear implant it can be used to check the battery life of a rechargeable battery. Your audiologist can show you how to use this.

Cochlear implant processors have a light on the back. The processor light will blink differently when the battery is low. Ask your audiologist what the light will do when the battery is low.



All batteries should be kept out of the reach of children and animals. They should also be kept in a cool dry place.

It is dangerous for anyone to accidentally swallow a hearing aid battery. If someone swallows a battery call your local poison control or in the United States, the National Battery Ingestion Hotline at 202-625-3333 right away, and don't induce vomiting and do not let the person who has swallowed the battery eat or drink until they have seen a doctor.

Consistent access to sound is important for your child to communicate using listening and spoken language. You can help your child by having extra batteries on hand, checking regularly to make sure the batteries are working, and by teaching other caregivers how to check and change the batteries.