

# Guidelines for Cochlear Implant Referral

Need help knowing when to refer a patient with **bilateral hearing loss** for a cochlear implant evaluation?

# Follow the 60/60 guideline!

## 60/60 guideline:

If a patient has **bilateral** hearing loss, refer for a cochlear implant if the **better hearing ear**:

- Scores  $\leq$  **60%** correct on an **unaided monosyllabic word test**
- Demonstrates a **PTA  $\geq$  60 dB HL**

**Cochlear implants are not just for children born with severe to profound hearing loss or adults with poorer audiograms anymore.** Many patients with bilateral progressive sensorineural hearing loss who are experiencing significant trouble hearing and understanding with traditional hearing aids are candidates for cochlear implantation. In these cases, patients will often demonstrate improvements in communication and report an improved quality of life following cochlear implantation.

With the ever-changing candidacy guidelines, a good **referral tool for cochlear implant candidacy is the 60/60 guideline.**

The **60/60 guideline** states that patients should be referred for a cochlear implant evaluation if they **score less than or equal to 60% correct on an unaided monosyllabic word test in the better ear** and have a **pure tone average (PTA) greater than or equal to 60 dB HL in the better hearing ear.**

It is important to note that the 60/60 guideline is for patients with **bilateral hearing loss**. This guideline is based on clinical research, which showed more than 90% of patients who met this 60/60 criteria qualified for a cochlear implant regardless of word test type or presentation style (i.e., live voice, recorded, etc.). This guideline applies to Medicaid and Medicare beneficiaries as well.

Zwolan, T., Schwartz-Leyzac, K., Pleasant, T. (2020). *Development of a 60/60 Guideline for referring adults for a traditional cochlear implant evaluation.* Presentation, CI2020 International Online

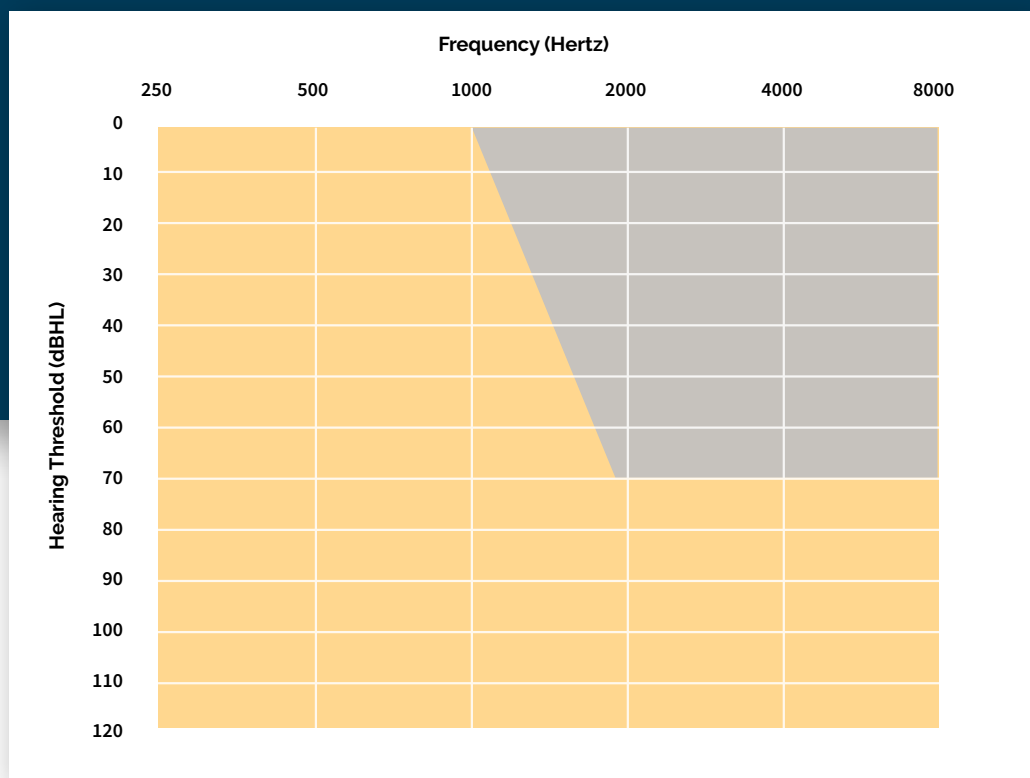


Need help knowing when to refer a patient with **single-sided deafness** or **asymmetric hearing loss** for a cochlear implant evaluation?

## Use the audiometric guideline below!

It is important to note that the **60/60 guideline does not apply** to patients with **asymmetric hearing loss** and **single-sided deafness**, but these patients may still be candidates for cochlear implantation.

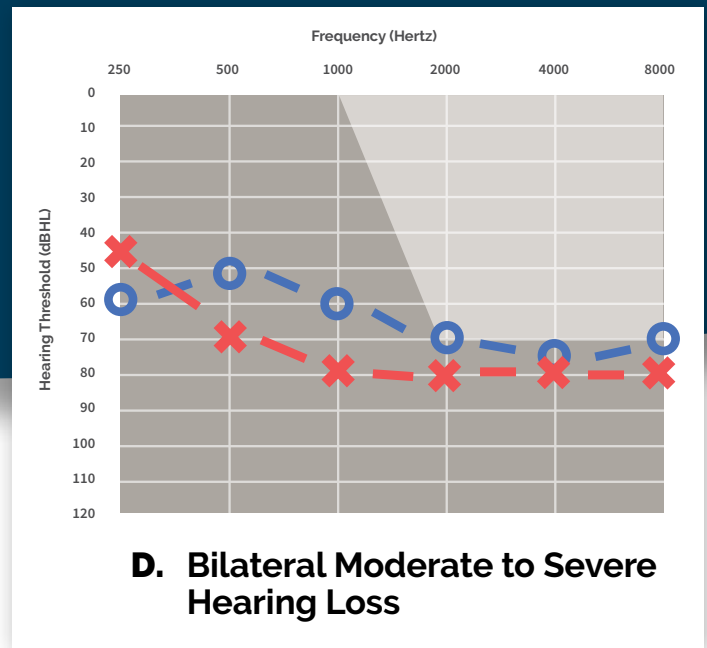
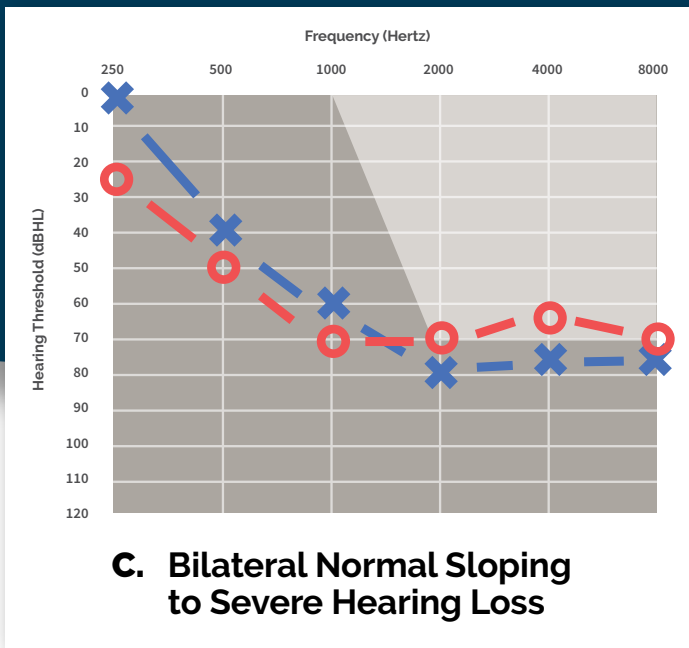
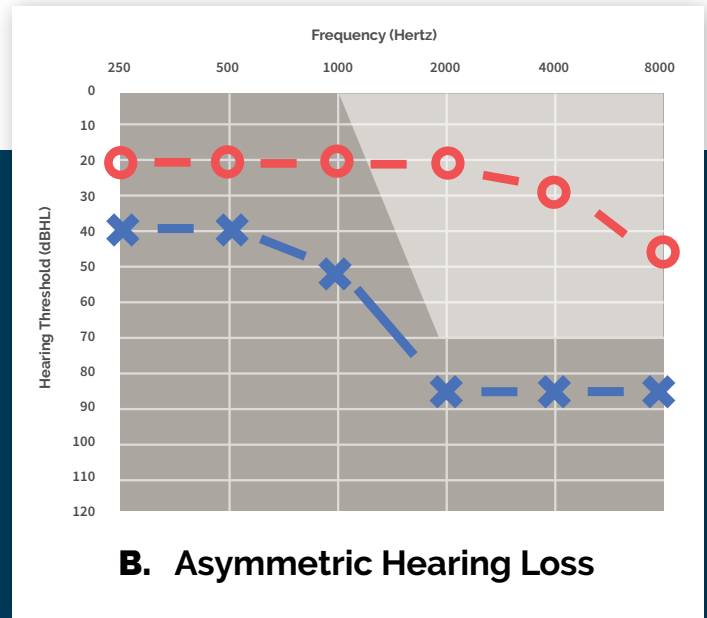
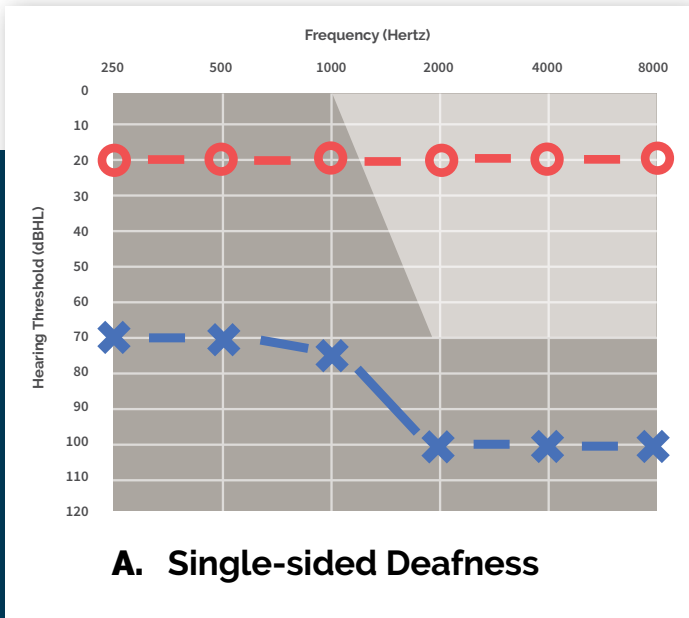
Cochlear implant candidacy criteria have changed a lot in the last 10 years. Many patients with single-sided deafness or asymmetric hearing loss have now received cochlear implants in their poorer ear. These patients often demonstrate improved hearing in the implanted ear and report significant improvements in their quality of life following cochlear implantation.



### Single-sided deafness or asymmetric hearing loss:

In cases of **single-sided deafness** or **asymmetric hearing loss**, consider referring the individual for a cochlear implant evaluation if the degree of hearing loss in the **poorer ear** falls within the yellow shaded region.

# In summary, which of these cases should be referred for a cochlear implant evaluation?



**E. ALL OF THE ABOVE!**

For more information about our cochlear implant center or to refer a patient please contact us:

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