

Centre for Hearing and Balance Disorders

CROS and BiCROS hearing aids

CROS stands for Contralateral Routing of Sound.

A CROS hearing aid is a special type of hearing aid for people who have little to no hearing in one ear and have normal hearing in the other ear.

A BiCROS hearing aid is similar to a CROS hearing aid but is for people who are profoundly deaf in one ear but also have a hearing impairment in their better ear.

With CROS or BiCROS hearing aids, sound is wirelessly transmitted from the profoundly deaf ear into the better ear. What looks like a conventional hearing aid is worn on the deaf ear, but this is a microphone only. This microphone picks up sound from your poorer side and sends it wirelessly into a conventional hearing aid on your better ear. It is then heard and processed by the brain.

The sound can also be amplified if you have a hearing impairment in your better ear.

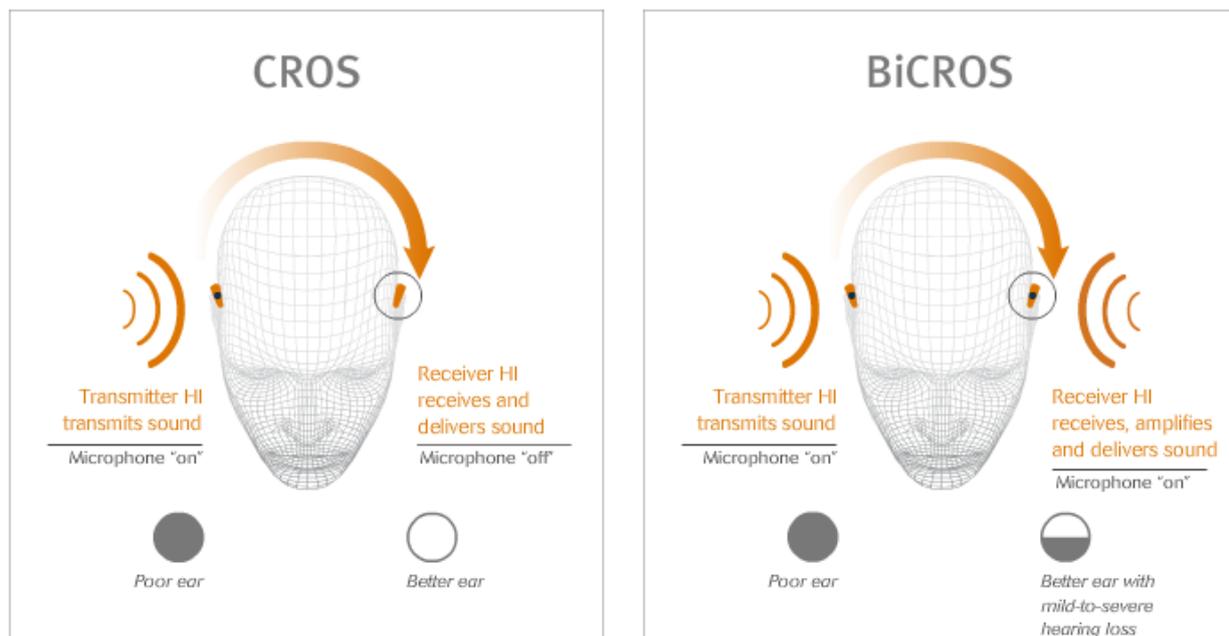


Image source <https://hearingaidbuyertoday.com/cros-hearing-aids/>



Patient Information

Potential benefits of a CROS or BiCROS hearing aid:

- To be able to hear sounds from both sides without turning your head.
- This can mean you are less likely to miss someone speaking to you from your poor side.
- This can make you feel less 'cut-off' on your bad hearing side.
- In situations where there is little background noise and the room acoustics are good the aids should be of help.

What a CROS or BiCROS hearing aid may *not* help with:

- It cannot improve your ability to tell where a sound is coming from (sound localisation).
- Noisy environments can always be challenging for hearing aid users
- If you have your bad ear towards noise the CROS may make it harder to hear than if you didn't have the aid in.
- If you have your good ear towards noise and there is speech coming from the bad side then the CROS might help somewhat to hear the speech, although background noise can always be challenging.

You will need to practice wearing your hearing aid in different situations each day to allow your brain to learn how to use the sound. Persevere with the hearing aid for at least 6 weeks to allow your brain to start to adapt to the new sounds you will hear.

Some people with very good hearing in one ear find the system can be too loud. If this is a problem we may be able to help manage this through fine tuning of the hearing aids.

All hearing aid users need to use good communication tactics or strategies to help them cope with listening situations. Please ask for our leaflet on 'Communication tactics'.

For people who are deaf in one ear the following tactics might be particularly helpful:

- Ask people to stand or sit on your better hearing side, where possible.
- In noisy situations it might help to sit with your back to the wall or in the corner of the room, with your better hearing ear directed to the rest of the room.

Patient Information

Further Information

Contact Stuart Hall on Telephone: 024 7696 6444

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format please contact us on 024 7696 6444 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy.

Document History

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