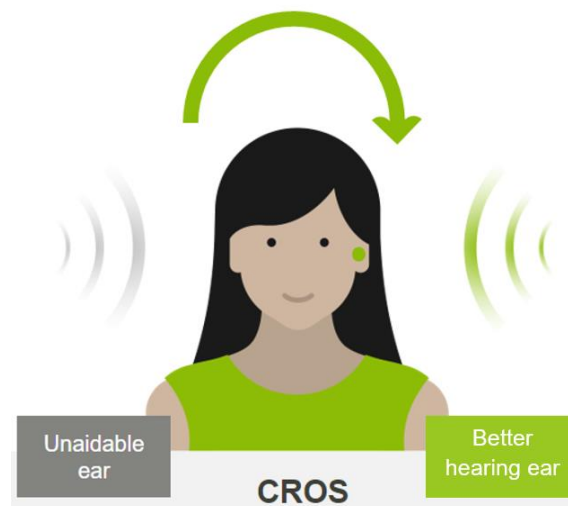


Centre for Hearing and Balance Disorders

CROS hearing aids

A contralateral routing of sound (CROS) hearing aid is for people who:

- have little to no hearing in one ear,
- have normal or significantly better hearing in the other ear, and
- cannot use a standard hearing aid



How a CROS hearing aid works

You wear a microphone on your poor hearing ear. This microphone looks like a normal hearing aid. This microphone picks up sound from your poor ear and sends it wirelessly into a hearing aid on your better ear.

The sound in your better ear can also be amplified if you also have a hearing impairment in this side. A CROS hearing aid does not provide any sound in your poor ear.



Potential benefits of a CROS hearing aid

The hearing aid will cross the sound over to from your poor hearing ear to your good hearing ear. This makes you aware of sounds on your bad hearing side.

This means you may:

- be less likely to miss someone speaking to you from your poor side
- feel less 'cut-off' on your bad hearing side.

When there is little background noise and the room acoustics are good, the CROS hearing aid may be helpful.

If you have your good ear towards noise and there is speech coming from your bad side, the CROS might help to hear the speech.

Limitations of a CROS hearing aid

- A CROS hearing aid cannot improve your ability to tell where a sound is coming from.
- A CROS hearing aid is not a replacement for hearing through both ears.
- Noisy environments and background noise are still challenging for CROS hearing aid users.
- If you have your bad ear towards noise, a CROS hearing aid may make it harder to hear.

Using a CROS hearing aid

Keep wearing your CROS hearing aid for as long as possible so your brain can adapt to the new hearing devices.

Wear your CROS hearing aid in different situations each day so your brain learns how to use the sound.

Patient Information

Communication tactics

All hearing aid users need to use good communication tactics to help cope with difficult listening situations. Ask for our leaflet on 'Communication tactics'.

For people who are deaf in one ear:

- communicate with people face-to-face so you can see their face and lips
- if face to face communication is not possible, ask people to stand or sit on your better hearing side

More information

For more information, contact the Centre for Hearing and Balance Disorders on 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.

Did we get it right?

We would like you to tell us what you think about our services. This helps us make further improvements and recognise members of staff who provide a good service.

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