

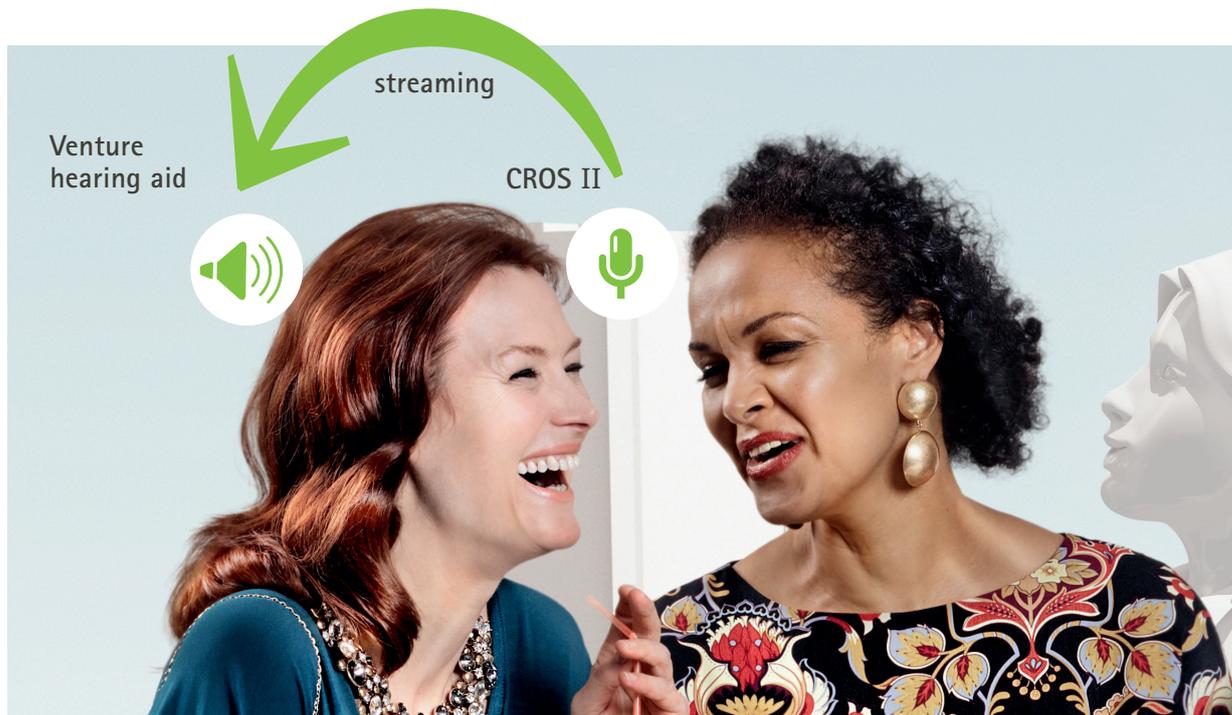
# Key facts about single-sided deafness (SSD)

- Individuals with single-sided deafness (SSD) experience several hearing-related problems:<sup>1,2</sup>
    - Perceiving speech in noisy situations, localising sound from an unseen source and needing to make extra effort when listening.
  - SSD can be congenital, a result of sudden sensorineural hearing loss, surgery or Ménière's disease, among other causes.<sup>3</sup>
  - Long-lasting, uncorrected SSD may result in neurological changes within the adult brain that could have further adverse effects on hearing.<sup>4-6</sup>
  - Individuals with SSD require intervention to help overcome the loss of hearing in the impaired ear and the resulting problems.<sup>7</sup>
  - There are two main options to correct SSD, transmitting sound from the deaf to the hearing side. Both technologies have evolved over recent years and appear to improve hearing in the impaired ear and spatial recognition equally.<sup>8,9</sup>
- CROS:** Contralateral routing of signals (CROS) comprises a CROS device fitted to the impaired ear, sending a signal to a hearing aid fitted to the functioning ear (Figure 1).<sup>8</sup>
- Latest CROS models, such as Phonak CROS II, have high levels of efficacy and acceptability.<sup>8,10</sup>
  - **Experts recommend fitting a CROS system as a first step, avoiding the risks and delays of surgery** (Figure 2).<sup>7,9</sup>
  - Using the iCube II device, Phonak CROS II is active during the fitting so the patient can immediately experience its benefits.
- BAHA:** Bone-anchored hearing aids (BAHAs) comprise an implanted microphone and sound processor behind the non-hearing ear sending the signal via bones in the skull to the functioning ear.
- Fitting a BAHA requires surgical drilling and placement of the implant under anaesthesia followed by a period of wound management and healing of 6 to 8 weeks.<sup>11</sup>
  - Skin reactions require local or systemic treatment and adipose patients are at particular risk of post-surgical soft tissue infections.<sup>12</sup>



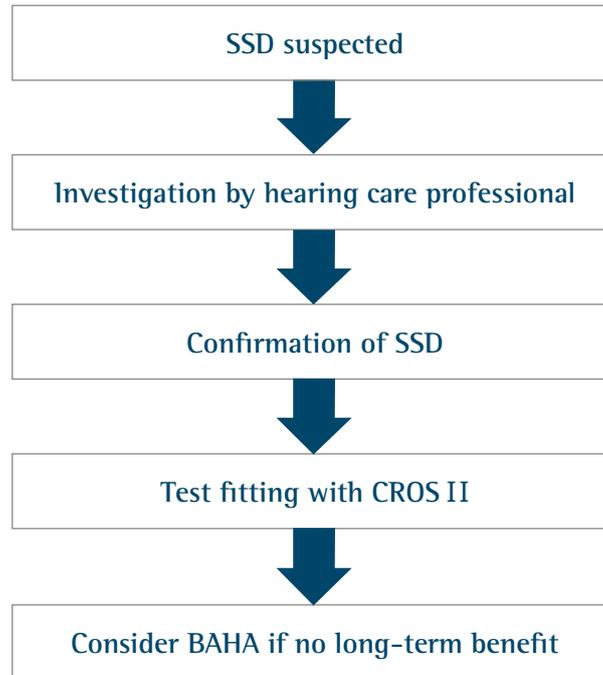
# Figure 1

Phonak CROS II: The smart solution for single-sided deafness.  
A CROS device fitted to the impaired ear sends a signal to the hearing aid fitted to the functioning ear.<sup>8</sup>



# Figure 2

Hearing care experts recommend a trial with new CROS technology such as CROS II before considering the surgical methods such as BAHA.<sup>7,9</sup>



# References

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