

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) On Traveling by Air with Advanced Bionics Sound Processors



Can I travel by plane with my cochlear implant?

Yes. Advanced Bionics has provided this information to make your journey easier. Bon voyage!

Can I travel on planes with my rechargeable batteries?

Yes. As of January 1, 2008, the US Department of Transportation (DOT) adopted regulations for passengers traveling with lithium batteries. As per the regulations, passengers will not be able to carry spare lithium batteries in checked luggage unless it is within a portable electronic device. However, as indicated in the regulations, any number of spare lithium batteries are allowed in carry-on baggage if they do not individually exceed 8 grams (~100 Watt hours) of equivalent lithium content.

All Advanced Bionics lithium-ion rechargeable batteries (PowerCel™ Slim, PowerCel Plus and PSP/S-Series™ batteries) have equivalent lithium content weighing less than 1g each, which falls well within the 8g limit. For reference, the lithium content of our lithium-ion batteries is as follows:

PowerCel Slim (CI-5520) & BTE PowerCel Slim (CI-5522) Battery - 0.06 grams

PowerCel Plus (CI-5540) & BTE PowerCel Plus (CI-5541) Battery - 0.11 grams

Rechargeable Body-Worn PSP and S-Series Processor (AB-7500) Battery - 0.66 grams

When traveling, protect the battery terminals by using the blue plastic PSP/S-Series battery cover or the PowerCel battery pouches.

For more information:

Advanced Bionics 800.678.2575

US Department of Transportation <http://safetravel.dot.gov/>

Do I have to turn my sound processor off when the flight crew directs all electrical/digital devices to be turned off prior to takeoff and landing?

No. The Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) has confirmed that Advanced Bionics cochlear implant recipients are EXEMPT from powering off their sound processors when instructions are given to turn off cell phones, music players or any electrical/digital device with an on/off switch. The FAA regards the cochlear implant in the Hearing Aid category and hence is exempt from the requirement to be switched off.



Advanced Bionics

Do I have to remove my sound processor when going through airport security?

No. Metal detectors and security scanners should not damage the implant or sound processor. However, cochlear implant recipients passing through security metal detectors and scanners may activate the alarm. It is advised that patients carry their "Patient Emergency Identification Card" with them at all times. Cochlear implant recipients also might hear a distorted sound caused by the magnetic field around the security scanner door or hand-held scanning wand. Turning off the sound processor before passing through security screening will ensure that those sounds, if they occur, are not too loud or uncomfortable. Cochlear implant recipients may request a full-body pat-down and visual and physical inspection of the sound processor in place of the standard metal detector and scanners and x-ray procedure.

For more information:

Advanced Bionics 800.678.2575

http://www.tsa.gov/travelers/airtravel/specialneeds/editorial_1380.shtm#0

Should I send the processor through the x-ray machine?

X-ray machines will not damage the sound processor; however, x-ray machines have the potential to damage the electric microphones used in most cochlear implant systems and hearing aids. As a precaution, avoid placing these items in cargo luggage or carry-on luggage that are screened with x-ray machines. During airport security screening, the processor and T-Mic™ (and spare parts carried) should either be worn through the metal detector/scanner or examined by hand.

For more information:

User Guide for the Harmony Processor

Advanced Bionics 800.678.2575

customerservice@AdvancedBionics.com

How can I get a Patient Emergency Identification Card?

If you do not have the identification card provided when you first received your cochlear implant, a replacement can be ordered by contacting Advanced Bionics Customer Service.

877.829.0026 US and Canada

800.678.3575 TTY

customerservice@AdvancedBionics.com

Where can I get more information if I still have questions?

The Bionic Ear Association at Advanced Bionics is available to support you.

www.BionicEar.com

800.678.2575

hear@AdvancedBionics.com



Advanced Bionics

© 2011 Advanced Bionics Corporation. All rights reserved. AB-11-001