

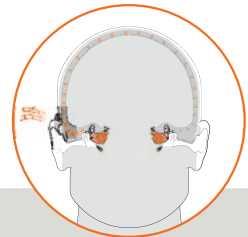
A Quick Guide for Professionals

System Candidacy

Audiological criteria

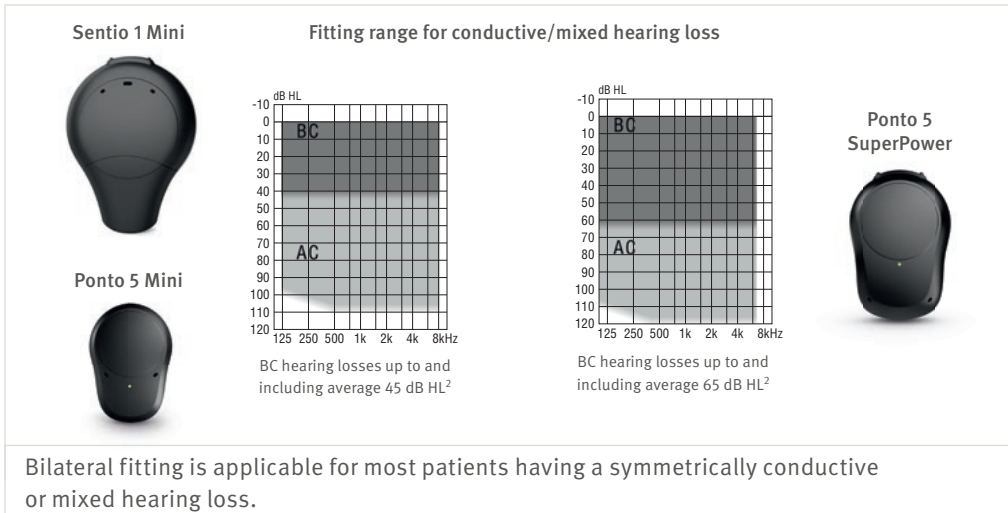
Conductive or mixed hearing loss

Studies indicate that patients with conductive or mixed hearing losses and an air-bone gap of more than 30 dB PTA¹ will benefit significantly from a bone anchored sound processor, compared to an air conduction hearing aid^{A,B,C}.



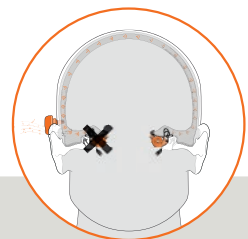
Possible causes of conductive and mixed loss:

- Chronic otitis media
- Congenital causes
- Aural atresia and/or Microtia
- External otitis
- Cholesteatoma
- Otosclerosis
- Traumatic injury to middle ear structures
- Other ossicular disease



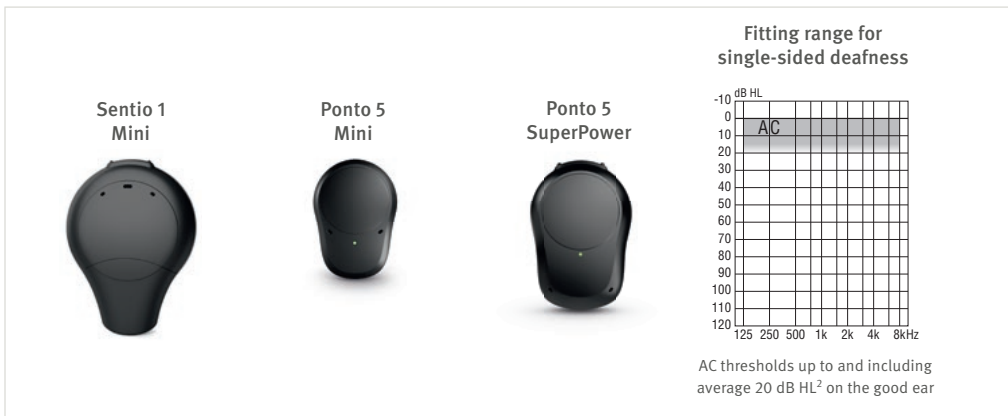
Single-Sided Deafness (SSD)

Patients are considered SSD once it has been determined that their affected ear will no longer benefit from amplification provided by a traditional hearing aid.



Possible causes of single-sided deafness:

- Acoustic neuroma tumours
- Sudden deafness
- Congenital causes
- Ménière's disease
- Neurological degenerative disease
- Ototoxic drugs
- Surgical interventions



Also, the use of a bone conduction system can be considered for any patients who are candidates for an air-conduction contralateral routing of signals (AC CROS) hearing aid, but for some reason cannot or will not use an AC CROS.

Note: For detailed information on patient selection criteria for the bone-anchored hearing systems, please refer to the Ponto or Sentio Candidacy Guide.

¹ Average of 0.5, 1, 2 and 4 kHz

² Average of 0.5, 1, 2 and 3 kHz

³ 275144en Product Information Sentio 1 Mini

^A Mylanus EA, van der Pouw KC, Snik AF, Cremers CW. Intraindividual comparison of the bone-anchored hearing aid and air-conduction hearing aids. Archives of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery 1998;124(3):271-6.

^B De Wolf MJ, Hendrix S, Cremers CW, Snik AF. Better performance with bone anchored hearing aid than acoustic devices in patients with severe airbone gap. The Laryngoscope 2011;121:613-16.

^C Bosman AJ, Snik AF, Hol MK, Mylanus EA. Evaluation of a new powerful bone-anchored hearing system: A comparison study. Journal of the American Academy of Audiology 2013; 24(6):505-13.

When choosing between a **Ponto™ System** and a **Sentio™ System**, there are several factors that should be considered and discussed with the candidate:



Surgical procedure and anaesthesia

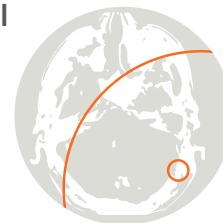
What is the patient's willingness and ability to undergo surgery and anaesthesia?

A Sentio implant procedure takes less than one hour, but typically requires general anaesthesia. In contrast, a Ponto implant enables truly minimally invasive procedures under local anaesthesia, often taking less than 15 minutes.

Future need for MRI

What if the patient needs an MRI scan in the future?

An implant can affect the ability to undergo an MRI scan and may also create artifacts. A Ponto implant can remain in place during an MRI scan and has minimal impact on future MRI needs. Any active transcutaneous implant, including the Sentio Ti, will create a larger artifact and may need to be removed if a scan of the head is required.



Audiological outcomes

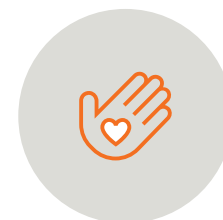
What are the hearing needs of the patient?

A Ponto implant supports the strongest BAHS sound processors. Therefore, it is the preferred choice for patients with severe mixed hearing loss. For any implant, always consider factors such as hearing degradation and implant lifespan. Sentio Ti is ready for SuperPowerful processors³.

Cosmetics and aftercare

Does the patient have an increased risk for post-operative complications?

The Sentio Ti has the benefit of intact skin, and therefore reduces the likelihood of soft tissue complications. Intact skin also has cosmetic benefits. Remember that counselling should also address the appearance when using the sound processor.



Future options

What is the time horizon and future medical needs?

A percutaneous Ponto implant has the smallest surgical footprint and can be easily removed, leaving only a tiny scar. A Sentio implant can also be easily removed but will leave a larger scar. Therefore, a percutaneous system could keep future choices open for reconstruction and other hearing solutions.

It is important to read and understand the Ponto and Sentio Candidacy Guides, the Ponto Surgical Manual, and Addenda and Sentio Surgical Manual for a description of patient indications, contraindications, and recommended procedures, including warnings and precautions. Not all products are available in all markets. Product availability and indications are subject to regulatory approval and may vary depending on the market.