

## British Society of Otolaryngology Surgical Priority Stratification

### **Priority level 1a Emergency - operation needed within 24 hours to save life**

Acute life-threatening complications of middle ear disease

Button battery in external ear canal

### **Priority level 1b Urgent - operation needed with 72 hours**

Based on: urgent / emergency surgery for life threatening conditions such as obstruction, bleeding and regional and / or localised infection permanent injury / clinical harm from progression of conditions such as spinal cord compression

Acute mastoiditis not responding to medical therapy

Other severe complications of middle ear disease not responding to medical therapy

Traumatic facial nerve palsy

Facial palsy secondary to cholesteatoma not responding to antibiotics and steroids

Trauma to pinna

### **Priority level 2 Surgery can be safely deferred for up to 4 weeks - elective surgery with the expectation of cure**

Based on: urgency of symptoms / complications such as local compressive symptoms / biological priority (expected growth rate) of individual cancers

Cochlear implantation following meningitis

Otologic neoplasia following discussion in MDT

Baro-traumatic perilymph fistula

Organic foreign bodies in the ear

**Priority level 3 Surgery that can be delayed for up to 3 months with no predicted negative outcome**

Cochlear implantation in pre-lingual profound hearing loss where delay will affect long term outcome

Otologic neoplasia following discussion in MDT

**Priority level 4 Surgery that can be delayed for more than 3 months with no predicted negative outcome**

Cholesteatoma surgery where intra-cranial complication is not present or not likely to be imminent

Surgery for chronic suppurative otitis media

All ossicular surgery

Middle ear implants

Other cochlear implantation

Grommets

Tympanoplasty

Meatoplasty

Vestibular surgery

Non-organic foreign bodies in the ear