It is often a simple decision for a patient to pursue unilateral cochlear implantation (CI) given poor auditory and language development, speech understanding and a high degree of communication difficulty; however, the decision whether to continue use of a hearing aid (HA) in the non-CI ear or to pursue a second CI is a much more difficult decision. This difficult decision is complicated by a lack of a data-driven criterion for determining bilateral implant candidacy. Specifically, we do not currently have evidence-based recommendations for determining cases for which the benefit to be gained from a second CI would exceed that of a HA in a bimodal hearing configuration. This presentation will detail speech and auditory function exhibited by these two groups of listeners as well as outline the underlying mechanisms driving benefit. Clinical implications relevant to today’s adult and pediatric patients will be discussed.