The use of cartilage is becoming increasingly widespread in tympanoplasty for the reconstruction of the ossicular chain.

Cartilage of three different sources can be found: autologous, homologous or heterologous. The use of autologous cartilage entails a second surgery on the patient’s nasal septum or the pinna, with relevant scar and extended surgical time.

Homologous cartilage must mandatorily come from a certified tissue bank, which entails considerable logistics and financial problems.

AUDIOBLANK® heterologous cartilage, taken from the nasal septum of horses, features excellent bio-mechanical characteristics, moreover:

- it is ready to use: pre-formed in the classic total and partial forms or in carving blocks;
- it is safe as regards all the infections transmissible to humans;
- it affixes the CE marking from the Italian Institute of Health, hence the surgeon is safeguarded against any medico-legal disputes.
AUDIO® blank can be fixed pushing it precisely towards the concerned area, e.g. the orbital fundus, or fixed through suture. Before implanting AUDIO® blank, we suggest to dip it in antibiotic solution. After opening the package, the remaining material cannot be neither used nor re-sterilized. AUDIO® blank has already been used in oculistics, maxillofacial surgery, neurosurgery, rhinology, otology, plastic surgery and put in contact with nerves, bones, cartilaginous, muscular and cutaneous tissues with very good results. AUDIO® blank surfaces are finely knurled thus increasing the surface-volume ratio and enabling a strong grip on the surrounding tissues to avoid prosthesis shifts. The prosthesis becomes stable in about 6 weeks and it is surrounded by a fibrous capsule which can be easily removed in case of revisions. AUDIO® blank is accepted as a biinert implantation, it takes approximately one year to be partially reabsorbed. Possible infectious processes quicken the reabsorption. AUDIO® blank can be left in its position even in case of infection: the wound recovers without need to remove the implant. AUDIO® blank shall not be applied to patients allergic to equine meat.

Equine chondroprosthesis

AUDIO® blank is made up of equine cartilage deprived of perichondrium which has undergone chemical treatments and has been sterilized through radiation. AUDIO® blank is available in blocks or sheets for which a destination indication is given: nose, zygomatic bones, chin, orbital floor, ear, ossicular chain, lackis and outlines. Blocks and sheets shall be carved by means of the scalpel for a final surgical adjustment. AUDIO® blank is packaged separately in a double envelope for 8 rays sterilization. The inner envelope contains propylene oxide solution: AUDIO® blank must be washed 3 times for 10 minutes in 50 cc. physiologic solution before use. The cartilages are taken from the nose septum or from the chest of healthy cattle, provided with veterinary pass certificate. The whole manufacturing process is carried out in Audio laboratories. The bacterial monitoring is under the supervision of the Institute of Microbiology, Università Cattolica Piacenza. AUDIO® blank cannot be sterilized again. On each package the following information are given: catalogue number, sterilization and expiry date, lot number, international symbols.