

INSTRUCTIONS FOR POSTOPERATIVE CARE FOLLOWING BAHA
(Bone Anchored Hearing Aid) OSSEOINTEGRATED IMPLANT

The BAHA is a titanium implant that is placed into the bone behind your ear. Placing it directly in the bone allows the hearing aid to directly conduct sounds from your environment to your cochlea with maximum efficiency.

After surgery you will have a white plastic dressing around your head to cover the surgical site. Tomorrow morning you may take off the dressing, however do not throw it away, as you may want it to protect the area when you sleep. Under the dressing is a sterile pink foam that is secured in place with a plastic 'healing cap'. This 'healing cap' snaps onto the titanium implant (which we call the 'abutement'). DO NOT REMOVE the 'healing cap' or the pink foam dressing. I will remove this on the first post-operative visit which should be 7-10 days after surgery.

When showering, try not to get the foam dressing wet. It is ok to wash your hair, but try not to get the surgical site wet. If the area does get wet, dry it with a blowdryer.

Due to the incision behind the ear, you will have some numbness for several months following surgery. It takes approximately 4 weeks for the implant to osseointegrate with your own bone and become firm and secure. If all heals well, we will fit you with your hearing aid 4 weeks from surgery.

There should be some mild pain after surgery and this should subside in a few days. We will give you a prescription for pain medication that you should use only as needed. Do not drive or drink alcoholic beverages while taking the prescription pain medication. DO NOT USE ANY ASPIRIN until after your first post-operative visit. You may use ibuprofen or naproxen after 24 hours. If you are uncertain about the use of a medicine, please call this office.

Call this office immediately if you develop fever, excessive pain or purulent (pus)-like drainage from behind the ear at (616) 249 – 8000.