



Bone Anchored Hearing Aid (Baha)—Postoperative Instructions

To minimize discomfort during the recovery period and achieve the best surgical outcome, please refer to these notes and recommendations:

Precautions & Directions

- ◆ You will go home with a cup over your ear and may also have cotton / gauze in the ear canal. You may remove this cup and any packing in the ear 24 hours after surgery.
- ◆ You will have a healing cap over the Baha abutment / screw. This should remain on until your post op appointment approximately two weeks after surgery. Your surgeon will remove this cap.
- ◆ You may shower 48 hours after the operation. You may gently wash your hair. AVOID swimming, baths, or other activities where the ear is completely submerged under water for two weeks after surgery.
- ◆ Apply a small amount of Bacitracin or Neosporin to the incision after cleansing for two weeks after surgery.
- ◆ Gentle nose blowing for two weeks post surgery is recommended. Do NOT 'pop' your ears by holding your nose and building up air.
- ◆ Avoid strenuous activity and heavy lifting (>10lbs) for two weeks after surgery.
- ◆ Avoid flying for two weeks after surgery.
- ◆ Driving is permitted when you no longer experience dizziness or fatigue and you are no longer taking pain medication.

Drainage and Discharge

- ◆ Bloody or watery discharge is expected during the healing process. Call your physician if you experience yellow or green discharge, excessive discharge, or discharge with foul odor.

Other Normal Postoperative Symptoms

- ◆ Tingling or numbness around the ear.
- ◆ Appearance that affected ear sticks out or sits higher/lower than the other ear. This is usually due to swelling.

(continued on back)

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Medication

- ◆ Mild, intermittent ear pain is not unusual during the first two weeks after surgery. Pain above or in front of the ear is common when chewing. You may take a regular dose of Tylenol or Advil. Alternate every four hours between Tylenol and Advil, as needed. You may also be given a prescription for post-surgery pain medication. This should be taken only as needed. If you have persistent ear pain not relieved by a regular dose of Tylenol or Advil after the first several days, call your physician.
- ◆ You may be prescribed an oral antibiotic—take this as directed.

Emergencies

During office hours, please call **727-791-1368, Option 3**, to speak to a Medical Assistant if you experience excessive, persistent bleeding, high fever (>101.5°F), intolerable pain unrelieved by medication, golf-balled size swelling, or foul-smelling discolored discharge from the ear. If it is after hours, our answering service will notify the physician on call. Please have your preferred pharmacy's phone number available.

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