

Bone Anchored Hearing Aid Surgery

Discharge Advice

Bone Anchored Hearing Aid (BAHA) Surgery:

The bone anchored hearing aid (BAHA) surgery involves the insertion of a screw into the skull bone in order to conduct sound vibrations to the inner ear. This technology can therefore bypass abnormalities within the outer/middle ear in order to improve hearing.

The surgery:

The surgery can be performed under:

- local anaesthetic (an injection to numb the area)
- local anaesthetic & sedation (injection into the vein to make you feel drowsy)
- general anaesthetic (medication will be given to put you to sleep)

An area on the side of your head will be shaved during the surgery. Post-surgery, there will be a small wound on the scalp which will contain dissolvable stitches (stitches that do not need to be removed). A plastic healing cap will be present. This cap is clipped onto the metal screw which is inserted into the skull bone. Beneath the plastic cap adjacent to the scalp is a dressing that supports wound healing.

Post-operative care:

It is important that you keep the ear dry post-surgery and you will be given a 1-week course of antibiotics in order to prevent infection. The plastic healing cap should remain in place for 6 weeks.

Should the wound start to discharge pus or become red/inflamed, an infection may be present. Please contact the ENT treatment room or D5E ward with regards to arranging an urgent assessment (contact telephone numbers are on the next page). In the rare event that the screw/fixture becomes loose, you should contact the ENT treatment room within office hours for advice.

Hearing aid attachment:

The sound processor (which attaches to the screw in the skull bone) is not usually fitted until 6 weeks post-surgery. This is to allow time for the skull bone to knit tightly around the metal screw prior to any weight/pressure being applied to it.

Recovery time/pain:

Pain and discomfort tends to be mild and usually improves within a few days. You will be given advice on pain relief prior to discharge by your nurse. Most patients require 2 weeks off work in order to recover. In the event of an unusual/severe headache, you should attend your nearest A&E department.

Follow up:

You should be seen in the outpatient clinic/ENT treatment room at around 1 week post-surgery. Should you not receive this appointment, please call the outpatient booking office on 01495765055 or ENT treatment room on 01633234018.

Swimming:

You can go swimming once the wound has fully healed (your consultant can advise you regarding this). However, the sound processor is not water proof so it should be removed prior to entering water.

MRI scans:

Following the insertion of the BAHA, you can undergo a MRI scan if necessary. However, you should let the radiographer know that you have a BAHA and remove your sound processor prior to entering the MRI scan room.

Long term care:

Once fully healed, the BAHA will need to be cleaned daily with a special brush.

EMERGENCY DISCHARGE INFORMATION

09:00 to 17:00 Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays): Contact the ENT Treatment room on 01633234018

After 17:00/overnight (adults): Ward C0 01633 493922.

In the event of an emergency, attend your closest Accident & Emergency department

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