

Bone Anchored Hearing Aid (BAHA) **Post Operative Instructions**

Nurse Line (8:30am to 5pm) **937-496-0261**
Emergency After Hours Line **937-496-2600**

Effects of Anesthesia

BAHA placement involves a brief anesthesia, either general or sedation, typically about 30 minutes to 1 hour. Patients may be quite irritable for several hours after surgery. If sedatives were given, some patients will remain sleepy for much of the day. Nausea and vomiting are occasionally seen, and usually resolve by the evening of surgery - even without additional medications.

Medications:

- You will be given pain medication to use as needed after surgery. Pain is usually not severe and regular Tylenol can be taken for mild pain as long as it is not taken with prescription pain medication.

Surgical Site Instructions:

- You will have an incision behind the ear where the device is implanted.
- There may be a larger dressing over the site, if there is you may remove it after 24 hours. If you had a Connect device placed, there will be a small white disc. Leave this in place. If the Attract device was placed there will be no additional dressing.
- If the plastic inner disc falls off at any time, do not replace it. This is not concerning and you do not need to inform the physician.
- You may wash your hair after the larger bandage comes off, but if present, keep the small dressing and incision dry by holding a cup over the area.
- Your surgeon will remove the smaller dressing when you are seen back in the office. This is usually about one week after surgery.

Limitations after surgery:

- Most patients can return to work within one week of surgery
- NO SWIMMING until cleared by your surgeon
- Avoid the following for 1 week after surgery:
 - Vigorous exercise
 - Bending below the waist
 - Lifting > 20 pounds

- If you have an Attract magnet, you may have an MRI, but only up to magnet strength of 1.5 Tesla, generally found with an open MRI.
- There are no MRI restrictions for the Connect device.

Reasons to call your surgeon's office

- Persistent fever over 101° F
- Pain that is not relieved by your medications
- Purulent or foul smelling drainage (pus) from the implant site
- Excessive swelling or bleeding from the implant site