

BAHA IMPLANT POST OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

LEAVING THE HOSPITAL

If you have not already been given a postoperative appointment, please call to schedule a visit approximately two weeks after surgery for removal of sutures. Also confirm your Baha Implant "switch on" appointment with Northside Audiology (9419 6999).

Any prescription you receive just prior to surgery should be filled. Usually you will be given antibiotics and pain relief for 1 week. Take the medication at

home as directed. There are no dietary restrictions although if nausea is present, it is best to start with clear liquids.

DRESSING

Remove the ear dressing the day after surgery. It is not unusual to have bloody drainage on the dressing. The adhesive dressing can be removed and replaced after 48 hours. The chemist will supply similar large bandaid dressings. If you have a plastic ring or yellow ribbon dressing around the plastic ring do not disturb it, as this could peel off your skin graft around the titanium implant.

PRECAUTIONS

1. AVOID sleeping on the side of the BAHA post for 6 weeks.
2. Keep the area DRY for 3 weeks. Shower or bath with a shower cap over the wound or with an assistant over a sink (like at the hairdressers).
3. DO NOT allow any water to run over the wound for 3 weeks. Three weeks after the surgery water can run over the Baha implant and the area dried with dabbing and not with any rubbing.
4. DO NOT take any unnecessary chance of catching a cold. Avoid undue exposure or fatigue.
5. You may anticipate a certain amount of pain and numbness around the wound. The numbness lasts for 9 to 12 months and when the bruised nerves are recovering they often cause sharp shooting pains around the wound or over the back of the head.
6. DO NOT plan to drive a car home from the hospital. Air travel is permissible two days following surgery.

7. DO NOT perform any heavy lifting (more than 15 kg) or vigorous physical activity for three weeks after surgery.

BLEEDING

A small amount of bleeding is expected around the wound for 3 to 5 days. Any heavy or prolonged bleeding should be reported to the doctor.

DISCHARGE

A yellow (infected) discharge at any time is an indication to call to make an appointment to see the doctor. Discharge with a foul odour should also be reported. In the first instance, oral antibiotics such as Keflex and topical antibiotics such as Chloromycetin ointment, will often be prescribed, to settle this down.