

BAHA

A BAHA (bone-anchored hearing aid) is a device that works by coupling of the sound processor to the underlying bone through 1) a small connector across the skin, and 2) an implant that directly bonds with the underlying bone – an osseointegrated implant (bone grows into the screw into the bone of the skull over time).

The system consists of three components: the titanium fixture, the abutment and the external sound processor. A minor surgery is required to place the Baha behind your non-functioning ear.

-Risks of surgery:

*There is always a low risk of infection and/or bleeding with any operation, as well as risk from anesthesia.

*There is a small chance of device extrusion, skin infection and/or breakdown requiring antibiotics and/or revision procedures.

*Additional rare risks include spinal fluid leak, undesired outcome with implant performance, and/or device failure with need for further procedures.

-Day of surgery:

*The operation is performed as an outpatient (same-day) procedure under local or general anesthesia.

*Do not eat or drink after midnight the day prior to surgery (no coffee or breakfast the day of surgery).

*Your primary care physician and/or anesthesiologist will review your medication instructions with you and instruct you what to avoid the morning of surgery.

-Post-operative care:

*The pressure head dressing must stay on for 24 hours.

For CONNECT surgery (with an abutment): Once the outer bandage is removed the inner bandage must stay connected to the post until you return to clinic for your first post-operative visit, typically 1 week after surgery. You may wash your hair during this time over the sink with a cup over the bandage.

For ATTRACT, OSIA surgery (with magnet only): No further dressing is required after the outer dressing is removed. Keep the incision dry for another 48 hours then you may wash hair as normal and allow soap and water to wash over the site.

*The operation does not typically cause much post-operative pain, but you will be given pain medication after the procedure. We will not refill pain medication.

*Most people take about one week off from work or normal activities- you may return to work sooner if desired.

-Additional post-operative information:

*If you wear glasses, you may want to remove an arm as to be able to use your glasses with the head dressing in place and not put pressure over the incision.

*It is normal to hear funny noises in the ear (buzzing, ringing, popping) and feel pressure or occasional sharp/shooting pains while the area heals.

*Call the office for any swelling, and/or redness of the incision site, fever, or other concerns. Minor swelling is normal.

-Activation: You will schedule an activation appointment roughly 2-3 months after the surgery, to be determined by your surgeon and audiologist.