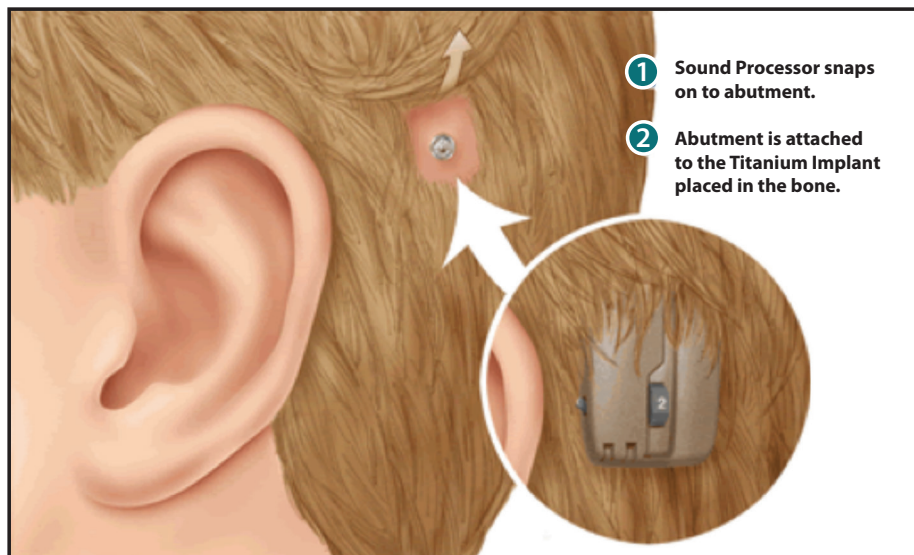


Bone Anchored Hearing Aid (BAHA) Post-Operative Instructions



What is a BAHA?

- A small titanium implant is inserted into the skull where it osteointegrates. An abutment is attached to the implant such that a small portion of the abutment sticks out through the skin and forms a snap attachment point for a removable bone conduction hearing aid.
- The titanium implant receives the amplified vibrations from the sound processor and sends them through the bone directly to the cochlea, bypassing the outer and middle ear. In BAHA users with Single-Sided Deafness the implant receives the amplified vibrations and sends them through the bone to the hearing ear, bypassing the non-hearing side.
- The sound vibrations reach the inner ear and cause waves in the fluid of the cochlea. The hair cells convert the fluid movement into electrical signals sent to the hearing nerve.
- The hearing nerve sends the information to the brain as electrical impulses, where they are interpreted as sound.

What are the risks of a BAHA?

- Inadequate hearing improvement
- Infection
- Bleeding

Initial Wound care instructions:

- Keep healing cap on until your post-operative checkup in the ENT clinic
- Keep the wound/cap free from water until post-operative checkup
- Keep incision line clean if visible around the gauze

After the cap is removed:

- Clean the incision daily with Q-tip and hydrogen peroxide to remove debris.
- Apply ointment prescribed daily or as prescribed

What to expect after surgery:

- Dizziness, if this persists call the ENT clinic
- No showering until post-operative checkup
- No lifting over 5 lbs for at least 2 weeks
- Sneeze with mouth open
- You will return to the ENT clinic 1 week after surgery for post-operative checkup.

Call the ENT clinic or Case Manger if you experience any of the following:

- The cap comes off
- Drainage that persists
- Swelling
- Increased pain
- Fever of 101° or higher

