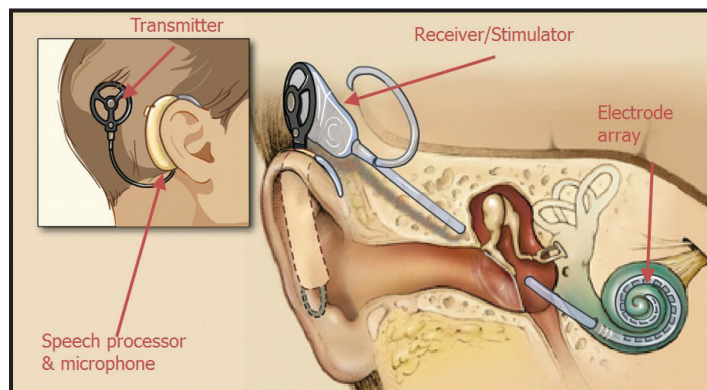


Cochlear Implants Post-Operative Care

What is a cochlear implant?

- Cochlear implants are surgically implanted prosthetic devices that use electrical stimulation to provide hearing.
- When hearing functions normally, parts of the inner ear convert sound waves into electrical impulses. These impulses are sent to the brain, where they are recognized as sound. A cochlear implant stimulates this process.



Incision Care:

- If you stay in the hospital overnight, the doctor will change your dressing before you go home. Either the doctor or the ENT case manager will remove the dressing, will inspect the incision, and answer any questions that you may have.
- Shampoo hair salon style while stitches are in place. Take care to keep incision as dry as possible until stitches are taken out, then the implant area may be washed gently.
- Avoid injury or bumping the implant area.
- If you wear glasses, pad the ear piece part of your glasses to minimize irritation to your incision.
- Do not participate in sports or vigorous activity, heavy lifting, or straining for 2 weeks.
- Return to ENT clinic as instructed by your doctor.
- If you are dizzy or your balance is unsteady, do not drive or operate dangerous equipment.

Suture Line Care:

- Wash your hands with soap and water before and after caring for the incision.
- Cleanse suture line (stitches) 2 times a day to remove drainage.
- Apply a thin film of the ointment you were prescribed using a Q-tip.
- Keep the incision open to air with no dressing.
- Once the incision is healed, if you go out into the sun, protect the incision line from sun exposure for 2 months using sunscreen SPF 15 or greater.

If you have stitches that dissolve:

- Stitches will be covered with tape strips that should stay on for 1 week (if applicable)
- Keep tape strips dry for at least 3 days after surgery (no showering)
- You may shower after 3 days but keep the tape strips as dry as possible
- Take tape strips off after 1 week (they will start to come off on their own)
- Tape strips are meant to cover the incision NOT hold it together. Do not worry if they come off early
- A light gauze/net bandage may be worn at night or as desired to protect or cover the stitches

Contact the ENT clinic or Urgent Care (after normal business hours) if you have any of the following:

- Feel severely dizzy or weak
- Feel sick to your stomach or throw up
- Chills
- Temperature greater than 101°
- Pain not controlled with pain medication
- Stitches are coming apart
- Muscle pain or feel achy
- Feel more sleepy than usual
- Lose feeling on your face or cannot move part of your face
- Wound is swollen, red, or has pus coming from it

