

POST-OP INSTRUCTIONS

BAHA System

What to Expect After Surgery

- **Medications:** If antibiotics are prescribed, please take them as directed until they are all gone. You may take pain medications as needed. Prescription pain medications cause drowsiness, somnolence, nausea and constipation. Please refrain from driving, operating machinery or making important decisions when taking prescription pain medications.
- **Potential Symptoms After Surgery:** You may notice numbing or tingling of the skin around your implant. This will improve with time.
- **Post-operative Visits:** You should have an appointment to see your surgeon 7-10 days after surgery for a wound check and dressing removal. There are no sutures that will need to be removed. Your sound processor will be attached to your implant after your surgeon determines you have healed properly after surgery; this typically occurs about 3 weeks after surgery but may vary. After surgery, yearly check-ups and hearing tests are recommended.

Post-operative Care Instructions

- When sleeping, try to sleep on the unoperated ear.
- If you have gauze wrapped around your head and ear, remove this the morning after surgery – this is most easily done by using scissors to cut through the gauze. If you are given a plastic ear cup instead, take this off the morning after surgery by detaching the Velcro® straps from each other. The plastic ear cup may be worn as needed to protect your implant when you sleep or during other activities.

- **DO NOT REMOVE** the plastic cap or the foam dressing underneath it at any time. If the cap and foam dressing accidentally come off, you may gently try to replace them back on your implant. First, gently push the implant through the hole in the middle of the foam dressing. Next, snap the plastic cap back on the implant, making sure the foam dressing is secured underneath. It is easier to have someone help you with this. If the cap and the foam dressing cannot be attached back on the implant, please call our office to arrange a time to come in as soon as possible during our office hours. Keeping the plastic cap and foam dressing on is essential to proper healing after surgery.
- Keep the operated area dry for 48 hours after surgery. Afterwards, you may allow the operated area to get wet, but do not allow the area to soak under water.
- You may gently clean crusting that may occur with peroxide and Q-tips®.
- It is okay to get water inside your ear canal.

When to Call After Surgery

- Fever higher than 101°F
- Redness, foul-smelling drainage, or swelling around the operated area
- Any other concerning signs or symptoms