



Advocate Medical Group

Willard S. Noyes, M.D., FACS

Thomas C. Kelly, M.D.

Mark Hancer, PA-C

ENT Surgical Associates of Central Illinois

207 Landmark Drive, Suite A

Normal, IL 61761

(309) 268-3200

Postoperative Instructions for Bone-Anchored Hearing Aid (BAHA)

After surgery, you will have a bulky head dressing over the site that will remain for the first 24 hours. We will have you come in to the office the following day or instruct you on how to remove this dressing at home. Once that dressing is removed, an adherent dressing will remain over the site. Then 5-6 days later, you will come back to the office for removal of this dressing, cleansing of the surgical site, and replacement of a new dressing. We will place non-adherent gauze before re-dressing. After the gauze is in place, we will position the plastic healing cap over the gauze to hold the gauze in place. This dressing needs to be changed at least once daily for the first couple of weeks.

No water to the operative site for at least 7-10 days after surgery. You need to refrain from hair washing or swimming during this period. Before you are able to wash your hair and get the area wet, you may clean around the abutment with a baby wipe.

The sutures at the surgical site will be removed at your 2 week post-op visit.

When the dressing is able to be removed and the abutment is exposed, you must clean the skin around the abutment every few days, as debris may build up. It is best to do this while you are washing your hair.

After a few weeks, when the area is healing over, gently brush the area with the brush provided to remove all the skin debris and build-up from the healing process. Aim the bristles against the side of the abutment, not at the skin, as care must be taken not to brush the skin too harshly. Build-up may also occur inside the abutment itself, so you need to clean inside as well as around. This type of cleaning should take place at a minimum of 2-3 times per week in addition to regular cleaning of the area while you wash your hair.

If you have persistent soreness or inflammation around the site, please contact our office. A small amount of bleeding is expected around the site for 3-5 days. Any heavy bleeding should be reported to the doctor.

No strenuous activity for one week after surgery. Walking and light housework are fine. Avoid sleeping on the side of the BAHA device for 4 weeks. If you must sleep to that side for comfort, you may use a donut pillow or a rolled towel that fits around the ear.

Patients usually can return to work within one week of surgery.

Numbness of the scalp or ear is not unusual for several weeks following surgery.

3 month post op visit: This visit will include seeing the doctor first and then the audiologist for connecting the sound processor. This visit will take about one hour and 15 minutes. After this appointment, you will follow-up with the audiologist every 6 months.

6 month post op visit: Following the 3 month post-operative visit, the patient will follow up with the audiologist every 6 months. Should a problem or concern arise, the patient can follow up with one of the providers as needed per the providers discretion.

Any questions or concerns, please call our office at 309-268-3200.