



Postoperative instructions for bone anchored hearing aid (Connect / Abutment)

- You will have a special plastic and gauze dressing following surgery that is situated around the operated site/implant (a 'healing cap'). This protects the area and provides gentle but consistent pressure to prevent bruising or fluid build-up.
- Do not touch or remove this dressing. It will be removed by your surgeon in clinic.
- Your wound may be partially closed with either absorbable sutures (stitches) or a specialized skin glue. Both dissolve on their own and do not need to be removed. You may not be able to see these until after the surgical dressing has been removed.
- After the dressing is removed, you may remove crusts from the incisions, if they should form, with either a clean, damp cloth or a cotton ball with peroxide.
- Avoid excessive rubbing, scrubbing, or picking at the incision. It is ok to get this area wet 72 hours (3 days) after your surgery date.
- To keep the ear dry, hair may be washed in a sink or the wound can be covered with clear plastic wrap.
- The implant (a metallic post) will be visible protruding from the skin. This is normal and the skin may look slightly red around this.
- Bleeding or oozing from the skin around the implant is unusual and should be reported to your surgeon.
- Numbness around the surgery site is normal and expected. This may persist for a few weeks or months.
- The hearing aid portion of the device may be used once cleared by your surgeon. Typically this is about three months following surgery to allow time for proper bone healing.
- Avoid lifting over 30lbs, bending over, twisting, or strenuous activities for at least 2 weeks after surgery or until cleared by your surgeon. Jostling activities such as contact sports, jogging, weight lifting, etc...should be avoided until cleared by your surgeon.

If you experience these symptoms after surgery, you should call your doctor's office:

- Excessive bloody drainage from the incision or swelling behind / above your ear.
- Any sign of infection such as increasing pain, yellow drainage, or swelling.
- Fevers in excess of 102 degrees.

Never hesitate to call the surgeon's office if you have questions about your postoperative progress.

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