

Information leaflet for parents/carers

Bone Anchored Hearing Aid (BAHA) Stage One Discharge Advice



This leaflet gives you information about your child's care at home after Stage One of Bone Anchored Hearing Aid surgery.

It is important that this leaflet is read together with the patient information leaflet "Going home after surgery." Please make sure you have been given a copy by the nursing staff on the ward.

Stage One Bone Anchored Hearing Aid (BAHA)

Your child has had Stage One BAHA under general anaesthetic; in some cases, a small area of hair may need to be shaved immediately behind the ear. Then using a small incision behind the ear two small titanium fixtures 3-4mm long are placed in the bone. The incision is closed using dissolvable stitches.

When your child returns from the operating theatre they may have a bandage around their head. This will need to stay on for 24 hours after surgery. Your child will be given an appointment for the Second Stage of surgery 3-4 months after the first stage. The time between the two stages of surgery allows for the fixture to 'knit' into the bone. This is called Osseointegration.

What if my child has pain?

Your child may complain of some pain or discomfort for 24-48 hours after this operation, this is normal. In hospital the nurses will give Paracetamol if your child needs pain relief. You should continue with this at home if your child has any pain. Please follow the dose instructions carefully and do not give your child more than the stated dose.

What do I need to do with the wound?

Following the operation your child may have a bandage around their head. This head bandage needs to be removed the day after surgery. The nurses on the ward will explain how to do this. Do not worry if the head bandage comes off sooner.

The stitches are dissolvable, so there is no need for them to be removed. To make sure your child's wound is healing satisfactorily we advise that you look at the wound every day. It is important to look out for any signs of:

- Pain
- Swelling
- Redness,
- A discharge
- If your child has a temperature
- An offensive smell from the wound area

If you have any concerns please contact the ward from which your child was discharged for advice.

What about washing and bathing?

It is important to keep your child's ear and the skin around it clean and dry for 7 days. Please avoid washing your child's hair during this time as this will prevent the stitches dissolving too soon.

What about school, rest and play?

After the operation, your child may feel sick. We advise your child to rest for the first couple of days. Your child may need a few days off school/nursery to recover.

For the following 10 days your child should NOT play any contact sports such as football, rugby etc. or take part in other rough play activities that may result in a blow to the side of the head. Your child should NOT go swimming for 10 days after the operation.

What do I need to look out for?

If you notice any of the following symptoms please contact the ward from which your child was discharged for further advice. Contact details are on the back of this information leaflet.

- High temperature
- Not eating
- Not drinking
- Persistent vomiting
- Swelling to the wound area
- Discharge/wetness from the wound area

If you notice any of the symptoms listed below please seek urgent medical help; dial 999 or take your child to the nearest Emergency Department.

- Severe lethargy/unresponsive/floppy child
- Irregular breathing pattern or difficulty in breathing
- Bleeding
- Increased pain
- Unsettled/irritability
- High temperature with cold to touch hands and/or feet
- Shaking generally to the body and limbs

Looking after and sharing information about your child

We have a duty of care to help patients and families understand how information about them is kept and shared and we include the following information in all our patient leaflets:

Information is collected about your child relevant to their diagnosis, treatment and care. We store it in written records and electronically on computer. As a necessary part of that care and treatment we may have to share some of your information with other people and organisations who are either responsible or directly involved in your child's care. If you have any questions and/or do not want us to share that information with others, please talk to the people looking after your child or contact PALS (Patient Advice and Liaison Service) on 0121 333 8403.

Please use this space to write down any notes or questions you might have.

Further Information

This information leaflet was produced using the latest evidence available and is based upon current practice. Further details are available upon request.

If you are concerned, need any more information or have any questions about your child when you get home please contact the ward from which your child was discharged, GP (family doctor) or your nearest Emergency Department.

Ward:

Telephone:

This leaflet has been produced by Ward 5 and the ENT Department at Birmingham Children's Hospital.

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