

## POSTOPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

# BONE ANCHORED HEARING APPLIANCE BAHA ATTRACT / BAHA CONNECT

Oliver F. Adunka, MD, FACS

Professor and Division Director, Otolaryngology / Neurotology / Skull Base Surgery

915 Olentangy River Road, Columbus, OH 43212, Office: (614) 366-3687, Fax: (614) 366-4345, Email: [oliver.adunka@osumc.edu](mailto:oliver.adunka@osumc.edu)

### Leaving the Hospital

- You will receive the following prescriptions
  - Pain medicines
  - Anti-nausea medicine (sometimes)
  - Antibiotic for 4-10 days.
- The bandage should be removed two days following surgery.

### Home Care-The First Few Days

- First 24 hours after surgery:
  - Remove all gauze from around the ear and the BAHA site
  - With the **BAHA CONNECT** system (traditional system that penetrates the scalp): carefully clean the site with a soft toothbrush. Please ensure that no infection has developed.
  - With the **BAHA ATTRACT** system (magnetic system under the skin): no specialized care is required.
- It is normal to see blood-tinged or brown drainage from the incision for several days.
- If the drainage becomes yellow, green, or has a foul smelling odor, please call the office.
- You may wash your hair 3 days after surgery but keep all water out of the ear canal. Use a cotton ball coated heavily with antibiotic ointment and place it in the outermost part of the ear canal.
- The incision behind the ear will be covered with Steri-strips and these should be left in place. These will remain adherent for 10-12 days. No care is necessary, just keep them dry.

### Home Care- After the First Few Days

- Drainage should begin to decrease and pain should also subside. Please continue taking Ibuprofen or Tylenol for relief of mild pain. It is normal for the top  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the ear to feel numb and this will take several months to return to normal.
- If you return for an office visit within 2 weeks, the Steri-strips will be removed in the office. If the appointment is later than this, you may remove the Steri-strips at home.
- All stitches are under the skin and will not need to be removed. After the Steri-strips are removed, the incision should be cleaned gently with peroxide once or twice daily until no crusting is noted. A thin layer of antibiotic ointment (Neosporin, Polysporin, Bacitracin, etc.) is helpful for 7 days after removal of Steri-strips.

### First Follow-up Appointment

- Call the office for a follow-up appointment at the time recommended (**typically 2 weeks following surgery**) by Dr. Adunka. Sometimes this appointment may be with your referring otolaryngologist, in which case, Dr. Adunka will send a letter detailing your surgery and recommended follow-up care before you see the physician.

### Call office if:

- Increased pain not relieved by prescription medications.
- Large amounts of bleeding from the skin incision.
- Pus/Foul smelling drainage from the incision.
- Redness in the BAHA site area.
- Temperature over 100° on 2 consecutive readings.

### Important Contact Information

#### The Ohio State University

- (614) 366-3931 or [dania.ahmed@osumc.edu](mailto:dania.ahmed@osumc.edu)  
Dania Ahmed in Dr. Adunka's office  
non emergent questions, scheduling
- (614) 366-3687 Hospital Operator  
after hours, ask for ENT resident

#### Nationwide Children's Hospital

- (614) 722-2000 Operator  
after hours questions, ask for ENT resident
- (614) 722-6547 ENT Nurse line
- (614) 722-4333 Emergency Department  
after hours emergency, only if no response from resident

