

# ARIZONA

## HEARING CENTER

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### BAHA / PONTO Device

#### POST OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

##### Please Read Before Surgery

This information is to help you care for your ear following surgery and to answer many of the commonly asked questions. There are two different types of BAHA implants. The BAHA Connect consists of a snap coupling coming out through the skin. The BAHA Connect consists of a magnet being placed under the skin. In patients undergoing the BAHA Attract there will only be glue on the incision once the dressing is removed.

##### Day of Surgery

Please do not take any valuables to the hospital. This includes jewelry and handbags. Do not plan to drive a car home from the hospital. No public transportation may be used. Please arrange to have someone available to drive you home. Do not eat or drink after midnight before surgery, including water.

##### Dressing

Please remove the dressing the morning following surgery. Cut the dressing in the region above the eye where the dressing comes together.

You may shower 24 hours after surgery. Please do not scrub the area directly, water may run over the region. Pat the area dry with a towel.

**BAHA Connect:** Remove the dressing down to the plastic cap. Please leave the plastic cap and the foam packing around the implant intact. If the cap comes off, you

need to put it back on (the cap is similar to a blue jeans snap). It is essential the cap and the foam dressing remain on until your first post-operative appointment.

**BAHA Attract:** Remove the entire dressing down to the glue that is placed on the incision. There will not be anything coming through the skin. You may shower as soon as the dressing has been removed.

##### Pain

Mild, intermittent ear pain is not unusual during the first two weeks. You may anticipate a certain amount of pulsation, throbbing and discomfort in the region. An anti-inflammatory pain medicine may have been prescribed. Please inform the office if you are allergic to any medications.

##### Numbness

The nerve that supplies sensation to the ear comes from the back of the skull and crosses across the typical location for a

**BAHA.** The ear and surrounding scalp may be numb. The numb area will decrease in size until it resolves over several months.

**Device**

You will be given the processor and the other components of the BAHA system the day of your surgery. Take it home and store it in a safe place.

**BAHA Connect:** Bring the processor and other components at your 3-month post-operative appointment.

**BAHA Attract:** Bring the processor and other components at your 6-week post-operative appointment.

The sound processor will not be fitted sooner than three months after surgery for the BAHA Connect and six weeks after surgery for the BAHA Attract. Prior to having the sound processor fitted, the site needs to be examined by Dr. Syms or his P.A. and written clearance must be given. Please do not schedule an appointment to have the processor programmed without having an appointment to see Dr. Syms or the P.A. first. Your audiologist will not program the processor until you have been cleared by Dr. Syms or the P.A. and obtained written clearance.

**First Post-Operative Appointment**

All post-op appointments will be at the downtown office unless otherwise stated. Hair should be washed the morning of your post-operative appointment. The dressing can be damp.

**BAHA Connect:** Post-operative visits are usually scheduled one, six and twelve weeks following surgery. You should be seen every year to have your hearing health monitored. An appointment time may have been scheduled prior to surgery. This will be indicated on your surgery scheduling form.

**BAHA Attract:** Post-operative visits are usually scheduled one and six weeks following surgery. You should be seen every year to have your hearing health

monitored. An appointment time may have been scheduled prior to surgery. This will be indicated on your surgery scheduling form. If you do not already have a post-operative appointment, please call the office as soon as possible during regular hours to schedule your appointment.

**BAHA Connect Abutment Care**

At one week after surgery, clean around the titanium abutment daily with gentle soap and water or strips of baby wipes. Please dry the skin carefully. Five weeks of the surgery, clean thoroughly around the abutment with a soft toothbrush and gentle soap. This type of cleaning should take place at a minimum of 2-3 times a week while washing your hair. This will need to be performed for the rest of the time you have the BAHA connect.

Please keep a record of all of your appointments below:

**Appointments:**

Pre-op: \_\_\_\_\_

Surgery: \_\_\_\_\_

1 week: \_\_\_\_\_

2 week: \_\_\_\_\_

6 week: \_\_\_\_\_

3 month: \_\_\_\_\_

1 Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Programming: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Please Note: Initial activation is \$250 for unilateral, \$400 for bilateral. A separate fee of \$200/\$300 will apply for each BAHA programming appointment after. This is not billable to your insurance.

The Arizona Hearing Center wants all of your questions to be answered. We would rather you err on the side of caution rather than not calling. Please feel free to call at 602-307-9919.