

ENT

Bone Anchored Hearing Aid (BAHA)

What is a Bone Anchored Hearing Aid (BAHA)?

A Bone Anchored Hearing Aid (BAHA) is a special hearing device for people who have trouble hearing because of problems in the outer or middle ear, or for those who are deaf in one ear.

If you had BAHA surgery, this leaflet tells you how to take care of your wound at home and what to expect when your hearing aid is fitted.

If you have any questions or concerns after reading this leaflet, please contact the Day surgical ward at University Hospital, Coventry.

What does the procedure involve?

Fitting a BAHA happens in 2 steps:

1. **Surgical Implantation:** Your surgeon will fit a titanium implant into the bone behind your ear. This helps the hearing aid send sounds directly to your inner ear (cochlea).
2. **Sound Processor fitting:** A few weeks later, an audiologist will fit the sound processor, which completes the process.

The procedure can be done using either local anaesthetic with sedation or a general anaesthetic. You will usually go home the same day as surgery.

What to expect after surgery

- **After your surgery:** You will have 3 to 4 stitches on your scalp and a dressing around the area where the device was placed. The healing cap fits onto the titanium implant (abutment) and keeps the dressing in place.
- **Do not remove:** It is important not to take off the healing cap or dressing. They will be removed during your first follow-up visit with the



Patient Information

ENT nurse, which will be 7 to 10 days after your surgery

- **Hygiene Guidelines:** When you shower, try to keep the dressing dry. You can wash your hair but try not to get the surgical area wet. If it does get wet, gently dry it with a blow dryer.
- **Numbness:** You might feel some numbness behind your ear for a few months after the surgery because of the cut.
- **Healing Process:** It takes about 4 weeks for the implant to fuse with your bone and become firm and secure. If everything heals well, we will fit your hearing aid 4 weeks after the surgery.
- **Pain Management:** Mild pain is normal after surgery and usually goes away in a few days. You can take painkillers like paracetamol or ibuprofen. We can give you some to take home.
- **Restrictions:** For your safety, please do not drive or drink alcohol while you are recovering.
- **Time Off Work:** We will discuss how long you might need off work after surgery. If you need an unfit for work note, it will be included in your discharge paperwork, which will be given to you before you leave the hospital.

Caring for the abutment after BAHA surgery

- **Daily cleaning:** Each day, clean the skin inside and around your abutment with a baby wipe. This helps get rid of any skin debris.
- **Watch for problems:** If you notice continued soreness, pus, or inflammation around the abutment, contact your GP or healthcare provider right away.
- **Check the abutment:** Regularly feel the abutment to make sure it is firm and does not move around when you touch it. This is important for keeping it clean and ensuring it works well for hearing.
- **Using the abutment cover:** After surgery, you will get an abutment cover (healing cap). Make sure to cover the abutment when the sound processor is not in place. Press the cover on the abutment to secure it.

When to ask for help

If you have any of the following symptoms, please ask for help:

- Excessive pain
- Bleeding

Patient Information

- Pus or unusual drainage(Purulent discharge) from the surgical site

ENT Clinical Nurse Specialists

There are 2 ENT clinical nurse specialists available to help you. They are available Monday to Friday from 8am to 4pm. Please contact them by calling the hospital switchboard at 024 7696 4000 and ask to speak to the ENT specialist nurse.

Out of Hours Support:

If you need help in the evening or on weekends, please contact:

- Your GP
- Your local walk-in centre
- NHS 111

Other useful contact numbers:

- Day surgical ward, University Hospital, Coventry: 024 7696 6828
- ENT secretary, University Hospital, Coventry: 024 7696 5610

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format, please contact the Day Surgical unit on 024 7696 6828 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy.

Document History

Department:	ENT
Contact:	26828
Updated:	November 2024
Review:	November 2027
Version:	1
Reference:	HIC/LFT/2942/24

Did we get it right?

We would like you to tell us what you think about our services. This helps us make further improvements and recognise members of staff who provide a good service.

Have your say. Scan the QR code or visit:

www.uhcv.nhs.uk/feedback

