



GWASANAETH MEWNBLANIADAU
CLYWEDOL DE CYMRU
SOUTH WALES AUDITORY
IMPLANT SERVICE

Bone Conduction Hearing Implant Surgery

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PRE-SURGERY

STARVATION INFORMATION

Please note that you should be given information with regards to what you can eat and drink and when to stop before your operation. This may be given to you at your pre-op assessment or when you receive a letter letting you know about your operation date and time.

If you do not receive this guidance please contact us ASAP so we can make sure you are ready and prepared as in the past people have attended for their operation for their implant and then been sent home due to eating too close to the operation time.

It can be dangerous to undergo an operation if there is undigested food in your stomach and the anaesthetist will not allow the operation to go ahead.

- Your surgery is generally done as a day case meaning that you are likely to go home the same day. However we advise that you bring night clothes that are button through to avoid pulling clothes over your head, whilst it is bandaged.
- If you park your car in the multistory car park, report to the car park office in the concourse and tell them that you will be staying as an inpatient and you will be given a concessionary rate.
- You may want to bring in something to read whilst waiting for your implant operation and after the operation.
- The surgeon will visit you on the ward prior to surgery.
- An anaesthetist will also come to see you on the ward to explain the anaesthetic procedure.
- Significant other - The operation will take between 30 – 60 minutes altogether. You are able to do whatever you feel best i.e. go home or go somewhere outside the hospital if you wish, as long as you can be contacted by mobile phone.

SURGERY

Surgery can be performed under general anaesthetic or local anaesthetic. Your surgeon will have discussed these options with you prior to the surgery day and will have decided which option is necessary depending on your medical history and the type of implant you are having.

On the day of the surgery you will meet with the surgeon and anaesthetist who will answer any additional questions you may have and will ask you to give your permission to proceed by asking you to sign a consent form.

Bone conduction hearing implantation is a simple procedure done in the operating theatre which takes approximately 30 -60 minutes. You are likely to be discharged the same day. A small area of your hair will be shaved during the operation to help the surgeon insert the implant. The wound will be closed using stitches which will usually dissolve within 2 weeks.

POST SURGERY

After the surgery you will likely be discharged and sent home the same day. You will need someone to drive you home.

Your head will be wrapped in a bandage to protect the incision site, and you will be given instructions on how to care for the implant site along with medication and possible activity restrictions. Once you take the bandage off, you may have some swelling around the incision site. You may have some discomfort for up to 48 hours after the surgery. You will be advised to keep the implant site dry for at least a week after the operation to help with the healing process.

7-10 days following the surgery you will be reviewed by your surgeon in ENT. At this appointment the implant site will be examined to check that everything has healed and that you are well. If the surgeon is happy they will contact your Audiologist so that a date can be arranged for you to have your hearing processor fitted. This is usually 4-6 weeks following surgery to ensure that the implant fixture is secure.

Points to remember:

- You will have a bandage on your head which will need to stay on for up to 48 hours if possible. Do not be alarmed by this as this is merely to put pressure on the operated site to help with healing.
- For patients have BAHA implant surgery you will also have a small healing cap on the abutment and this needs to stay on until you are seen at your ENT appointment which is normally 7-10 days following your surgery
- Once the bandage is removed you will see a small scar and some swelling. Sometimes the wound can bleed or weep as it closes, but if you have any concerns or suspect an infection, then please contact the team straight away.
- The wound will be closed using stitches which will usually dissolve within 2 weeks.
- Everyone reacts to the anesthetic differently - some people will be sleepy, some upset, some agitated or nauseous and some are wide awake.
- Pain and discomfort tends to be mild and usually improves within a few days. You will be given advice on pain relief prior to discharge by your nurse.
- Most patients require 1 week off work in order to recover.
- You should recover quickly from this operation and may well want to return to normal activities. At this stage you will have to be careful that you do not knock your head.
- You may be given a course of antibiotics to go home but if not there is nothing to worry about.
- You will be given an appointment to attend the outpatient clinic and see the surgeon for them to check the scar about 7 to 10 days following the operation.
- You should not wash your hair or get the scar site wet until it has been checked by the surgeon at this appointment.
- You should not go swimming until 6 weeks after the operation.
- Processor fitting will be 4-6 weeks following surgery

Once you return home, it is important to report any concerns you may have regarding the operation site or your general health to the team.

Please contact the team using the contact details above.

If you experience problems during the evening (After 5PM) or on the weekend please contact the out of hours GP for advice and if there is any bleeding or discharge from the site please go straight to your nearest A&E department.

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