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POSTOPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS OSSEOINTEGRATED (BAHA OR PONTOPRO) IMPLANT

This Instruction Sheet is designed to help you care for your ear following surgery, and to answer many of the commonly-asked questions. Please read it carefully.

Should any emergency questions arise, Dr. Chandrasekhar or her covering doctor is available 24 hours per day and can be reached through the answering service at 212-249-3232.

LEAVING THE HOSPITAL

1. Your first postoperative appointment should be one week after surgery. Please call the office after 9 am on the next business day after your surgery to schedule the appointment, if it hasn't been made preoperatively for you.
2. The prescriptions that you receive should be filled. The antibiotic should be taken at regular intervals as directed on the bottle. The pain medication should be taken as needed, as directed on the bottle. Side effects of the pain medications include drowsiness and constipation.

THE NIGHT AFTER SURGERY

It is advisable to sleep with your head slightly elevated on one or two pillows, keeping pressure off of the operated ear. This will help reduce any postoperative swelling.

You should limit your dietary intake on the day that you've had surgery to clear liquids and bland soft solids. It is advisable to drink plenty of water after surgery.

THE DAY AFTER SURGERY

Leave the dressing around your head on for 3 days after surgery is over. If it feels too tight, the Velcro closures can be adjusted. The ear should not hurt under the dressing; if it does, have a family member remove the dressing briefly and check to make sure that the ear itself is not bent forward under the dressing. The dressing may be removed at 3 days after surgery. There is a white 'healing cap' over the implant with a yellow medicated dressing below it. Those should be left in place.

PRECAUTIONS

1. The entire side of head must be kept dry.
2. DO NOT do any heavy lifting or aggressive aerobic exercise until advised that it is permissible to do so by Dr. Chandrasekhar.

SENSATIONS THAT YOU MAY EXPERIENCE

1. You may have pain and/or numbness around the implant and even up to the top of your head after surgery. This is not a cause for concern. You should take the medication for pain as needed.
2. You will not be hearing from your osseointegrated implant until the first programming visit, which will be a few weeks after surgery.
3. If you develop swelling, redness, fever, or severe pain over the surgery site, or severe neck pain or headaches, please call the office for an urgent appointment to see the doctor.
4. Mild, intermittent pain, occasionally of a shooting quality, is not unusual during the first two weeks. With chewing, pain above or in front of the ear is felt, and will resolve over time. Take pain medications as needed.

Please feel free to contact the office if there are any questions.

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