

BC Children's Hospital Audiology Services

Bone Conduction Hearing Implant Surgery

Information For Parents Considering a Bone
Conduction Hearing Implant for Their Child



How do we prepare for surgery?

- Learn more at the BC Children's Hospital Procedures and Surgical Services page: www.bcchildrens.ca/our-services/hospital-services/procedures-surgical-services
- Wash your child's hair the night before surgery. After the surgery, your child can't wash their hair for 7 days.
- Your child will need to fast before the surgery. The Pre-Anesthesia Clinic will call you a few days prior to your child's surgery to review the anesthetic (sleep medicine) and fasting instructions. If you don't hear from them, please call 604-875-3447. They may schedule an in-person visit if needed.
- Your child will likely be discharged from the hospital on the same day of the surgery.
- For out-of-town families, we ask that you and your child stay one night in-town after surgery to allow your child to recover. Please make arrangements for this. If you need help with accommodations, please call the BC Family Residence Program at 1-866-496-6946.



What happens during surgery?

- Your child will have a general anesthetic (sleep medicine).
- The surgery usually takes about 1-2 hours for one ear or 3-4 hours for both ears.
- An incision (cut) is made behind your child's ear. This allows the surgeon to insert the implant.



What can we expect after surgery?

Incision line

- Dissolvable stitches are used to close the skin along with topical glue.

Dressing

- Sometimes there is a dressing or gauze around the ear(s) that have been implanted. Usually there is no dressing. If your child's head dressing comes off overnight, it is not necessary to replace it.

Pain & medication

- You should give your child Tylenol (acetaminophen) and Advil (ibuprofen) regularly every 4-8 hours for the first few days for pain, and then as needed. Follow the bottle's instructions.
- If your child is in lots of pain after surgery, your child needs to be assessed.

Diet

- Your child can eat their normal diet when they are ready. Encourage lots of fluids.

Bathing and showering

- Do not wash your child's hair for 7 days. Your child can have a bath but avoid getting water over the incision line. After 7 days, you may wash your child's hair, but be gentle with the incision site.

When can my child return to activities?

- Your child can return to school in approximately 2 days after the surgery, or when they feel better.
- Your child should avoid sports and active play for 4 weeks. They can do gentle activity in 2 weeks. Quiet play is okay after surgery.
- Air travel is okay the next day after surgery.
- No swimming for 2 weeks.



Call the ENT Clinic Nurse if:

- Your child has a fever higher than 38.5°C
- The incision oozes pus (white, yellow or green fluid), or is warm, red, or swollen.
- Your child's pain does not get better with pain medicine.
- Your child vomits more than 24 hours after their surgery.
- The incision line opens up
- Your child is not peeing more than 2 times a day.
- You have other worries about your child.

If there is bright red bleeding that does not stop, or other urgent concerns, please go to your nearest emergency department.

Contact information

ENT office: 604-875-2113

ENT clinic nurse:

604-875-2345 ext. 7053

Monday to Fridays, except holidays

8:30am-4:30pm

**Your audiologist for
questions about your
child's external processor**

