

Post-operative Instructions

Cochlear implant

What to expect

Cochlear implant surgery is well tolerated by most. Pain is minimal. Some people may experience transient dizziness and poor balance of variable severity and duration. It is generally mild and brief but care must be taken to avoid falls. If balance is poor it is inadvisable to be at home alone. Occasionally tinnitus may appear or worsen temporarily.

Discharge Medications

Panadol and panadeine usually suffice. Stronger analgesics will also be prescribed on discharge in case they are required.

Oral antibiotics will also be provided for at least 7 days post operatively.

Diet and Showers

A normal diet is appropriate.

Keep the wound dry for 48 hours, thereafter the wound can be got wet and the hair can be washed.

Precautions

Avoid strenuous activity for 1 to 2 weeks. Also avoid heights, ladders and other situations where a fall may be dangerous, particularly if you feel off-balance.

It is inadvisable to drive at least until you see me at the one-week postoperative appointment. A decision regarding driving thereafter will be made at that time.

You must not operate machinery or make legally binding decisions for 24 hours.

Return to Work/School

Generally 1 week off is sufficient.

What to watch out for and when to contact me

The main concern with any implant surgery is infection. It is normal for the wound to be a little red. If you notice increasing redness, swelling, pus or discharge from the ear or wound you must contact me.

If you have any concerns please call my rooms during office hours or my mobile number after hours. You will find it on the front of the card with your post op appointment details. If you can't locate it please call the hospital (numbers below) and they will contact me.

In the unlikely event that I can't be contacted and the problem is urgent please proceed with out delay to the nearest public Accident and Emergency Department.

Rooms : 8363 0677

St Andrews : 84082111

Parkwynd : 82233294