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Post-Operative Care After Cochlear Implant

What to expect

- **Pain:** most children experience only mild to moderate pain after the surgery. Older children and teenagers experience more neck and head pain, mostly of muscular origin. Please keep your child comfortable with the pain medications prescribed by your doctor.
- **Swelling:** there may be some swelling behind the operated ear; this should subside in a few days. After the swelling subsides it is normal to feel a lump where the implanted device is located. Watch for any "soft", "spongy" swelling, as it may be a hematoma. Call us immediately if that happens.
- **Nosebleeds:** they can happen after surgery as the ear and nose are connected. It is usually brief and resolves in the first day or so.
- **Dizziness:** Some children experience some imbalance after implant surgery. It is usually temporary, and lasts normally up to 7 days.

Wound Care

- a. You may remove the head dressing 2 full days after surgery.
- b. Keep the wound dry for 1 week. After that you can clean the area with water and soap to remove the "skin adhesive".
- c. Bath- can be done immediately after surgery with head protection. Seven days after surgery you may shower/bathe without head protection.

Medications

- a. Pain – Tylenol or a stronger medication (such as Hycet), if needed.
DO NOT USE ASPIRIN OR IBUPROFEN TO AVOID BLEEDING
- b. Antibiotics - _____ - use as prescribed for 7 days.

Diet

Regular

Activities

- In general, the child can return to normal non-physical activities in 24 hours, avoiding any potential trauma to the head on the side of surgery.
- a. School Attendance: 5-7 days after surgery
 - b. Playground activities should be supervised: 2 weeks after surgery.
 - c. Physical Education: 1 month after surgery.
 - d. Swimming: 2 weeks after surgery, but no diving.

Follow-up

1 week after surgery. Please call the office to make an appointment.

When to call our office:

If the patient has a **temperature over 103°**, **excessive** bleeding, **severe** pain, **excessive** swelling or **redness** behind the ear, or if there is any **asymmetry** in the movement of the face.