

POST-SURGICAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COCHLEAR IMPLANT

Process: Care and Treatment | **Code:** CT-FO-146 | **Version:** 03 | **Approval Date:** May 19, 2016

GENERAL CARE

- Maintain relative rest; you may walk inside the house, watch television, or read. Do NOT exercise and do NOT take long walks until authorized by your doctor.
- The patient must always be accompanied at home and outdoors to prevent falls. Remember that the ear is the center of balance.
- Do not wash your head/hair until authorized by your doctor.
- Do not blow your nose during the first few days. If you need to sneeze, do so with your mouth open to avoid undue force or pressure on the ear.
- Remember that the cotton, gauze, and Micropore tape left in the patient's ear must NOT be removed until the doctor does so.
- Avoid letting water enter the ear until ONE MONTH after the last follow-up check by the treating otolaryngologist.
- Sleep on the opposite side of the operated ear.
- Avoid sun exposure, night air (sereno), physical exertion, and alcohol consumption.
- If you smoke, you must avoid cigarettes because smoking delays the healing process.
- Do not leave the city without your doctor's authorization, as changes in altitude, pressure, and movement can jeopardize the surgery and cause damage that is difficult to treat.
- Temporary facial paralysis may occur.
- Take care to understand the patient's needs through writing and lip-reading mechanisms.

WOUND CARE

- Avoid wetting the dressing (gauze-Micropore) placed over the ear.
- If you notice redness (rubor), heat, swelling, or pain around the wound, in the ear canal, or on the outer ear, consult your treating otolaryngologist immediately.
- If you observe a discharge of abundant fluid, blood, or purulent material (pus), consult your treating otolaryngologist.
- After the stitches are removed from the surgical wound, it must be washed with plenty of soap and water. Before washing, ensure you practice proper hand hygiene to prevent surgical wound infections. If the ear canal still has cotton or packing tape (hiladilla), wash only the wound.
- Maintain good personal hygiene.
- Use good cleaning techniques in the room where you will be staying during recovery.

- The bandage must remain fixed in its position around the head; therefore, you must keep your head in a supine (face up) position or a lateral position on the opposite side of the operated ear.
- If the bandage moves or becomes dislodged, the patient's family member must call the treating otolaryngologist to report it and immediately go to the Clínica de Otorrinolaringología de Antioquia. The bandage will be reapplied there in the surgical service department, as the bandage is the primary tool to avoid complications such as hematomas and infections.
- The bandage must not get wet under any circumstances.

DIETARY CARE

- During the first day, avoid consuming dairy products and do not drink carbonated beverages (sodas). These items can cause vomiting and significant discomfort.
- It is recommended to consume soft foods and certain liquids during the first day, such as non-acidic juices, popsicles, and gelatin; prefer fruits like papaya, mango, pineapple, guava, etc. After the second day, your diet can return to normal.

MEDICATIONS AND CARE

- Take only the medications prescribed by your treating doctor.
- Avoid Aspirin®, Naproxen®, Advil®, Ibuprofen®, and herbal/natural remedies.
- Consult your treating doctor regarding any medications you were taking before the surgery and their post-surgical administration.
- In case of pain, DO NOT self-medicate; consult your doctor.
- If you experience a severe and continuous headache, consult immediately.

DO NOT BE ALARMED

- Dizziness during the first 7 days following surgery.
- Vomiting during the first 7 days following surgery.
- Mild pain and swelling in the ear where the surgical intervention was performed.
- A sensation of a clogged or blocked ear.
- Serosanguinous discharge (watery blood) from the surgical wound.

WARNING SIGNS

If you experience any of the following warning signs, you must contact your doctor immediately:

- Vomiting and dizziness persist or become very frequent.
- Temperature above 38°C (100.4°F).
- Heavy or abundant bleeding from the ear.
- Discharge of pus or a foul odor from the operated ear.
- The patient exhibits facial nerve damage, which manifests as changes in facial anatomy: a deviated or motionless mouth, eye, eyebrow, or forehead.
- The patient experiences neck stiffness or a severe headache.
- The patient experiences vertigo or dizziness after the 8th postoperative day.

YOUR SAFETY IS VERY IMPORTANT TO US If you have not yet contacted your doctor, you can call the clinic at **2658584 ext. 170-177**. Please note that phone hours are Monday through Friday from 6:00 AM to 9:00 PM. Alternatively, you can write to **seguridad.paciente@clinicaorlant.com** to receive further instructions.

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