Bone Anchored Implants (BAI)

(Sometimes referred to as a BAHA)

A bone anchored implant consists of an external sound processor and a titanium implant placed in the skull behind the ear. The bone anchored devices work by using bone conduction to transmit sound to inner ear. Additionally, the bone anchored device may be worn on a softband instead of being surgically implanted. In the U.S., surgeries for implantation are not performed until the child is at least 5 years of age.

Example of surgically implanted device

Example of device worn on a softband (with NO surgical implantation)

Simple Troubleshooting Tips for Bone Anchored Hearing Devices

Batteries

1. The battery function can be related to a number of problems including: no sound, intermittent sound and crackling/buzzing
2. When encountering such problems, check the battery function first

No Sound

1. Ensure the sound processor is turned on
2. Try a new battery (or use a high power battery)

Faulty sound, including: weak, distorted, intermittent, or cracking sound

1. Try a new battery (or use a high power battery)
2. Adjust the volume (*newer processors may not have a volume control or it may not be activated)
3. Check that the abutment is clean and correctly connected to the head of the implant – if loose the abutment should be tightened (Please notify parent of this so that an appointment can be made with the audiologist). DO NOT ATTEMPT TO TIGHTEN ABUTMENT.
4. Check that the abutment is clean and clear of any debris

*If any of these problems persist after troubleshooting attempts, notify the student's parent(s) of the situation so that they can contact his/her managing audiologist.

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