Bone Anchored Hearing Aids (BAHA) Abutment

Most children wear conventional Hearing Aids which are worn inside the ear (ITE) or behind the ear (BE). These aids transmit sound to the middle ear via the ear canal.

Conductive deafness is caused when sounds cannot pass efficiently through the outer and middle ear to the inner ear. Bone conduction hearing aids are considered for children with this type of deafness when they cannot benefit from behind the ear hearing aids. This aid is called a BAHA.

A behind the ear hearing aid may not be suitable because of persistent ear infection (discharging ears) that prevents the child from wearing an ear mould or because the child was born with microtia (malformation of the external part of the ear) which prevents them from wearing a conventional hearing aid.

This is a photograph of a bone-anchored hearing aid on an abutment. You can see the BAHA in place being the ear.

What is a BAHA on an abutment?

One type of bone conduction aid is called a BAHA or bone anchored hearing aid. This aid differs from conventional hearing aids because it requires minor surgery to implant a small titanium screw in the bone behind the ear. Then a small fitting is attached to the screw. This fitting can be seen behind the ear. The BAHA is a small sound processor, which clips into the fitting.

- The BAHA is not intrusive and the child is not aware of it.
- However, if there is an accident and the BAHA is knocked, it is designed to fall out without causing any problems.
- Younger children may need supervising when changing for PE.