Press release

Cochlear™ connects people with moderate to profound hearing loss to the world of sound by offering life-enhancing hearing solutions that deliver the best possible hearing outcomes. Making evidence-based choices and investing heavily in product and service innovation, Cochlear supports both patients and medical professionals with a comprehensive infrastructure enabling them to benefit from our solutions for life.

Shorter surgery times and soft tissue preservation with new DermaLock™ technology

The new Cochlear™ Baha® DermaLock™ Abutment (BA400) is the only abutment designed and approved for soft tissue preservation.

Bone conduction hearing solution recipients can now enjoy all the benefits of hearing with a Baha® System, with significantly reduced surgery time and improved cosmetic results. Over 300 Baha recipients have already been successfully implanted with the new technology.

DermaLock™ technology

The DermaLock Abutment is the only bone conduction abutment with a hydroxyapatite coated surface. Unlike conventional titanium abutments, the unique DermaLock surface promotes soft tissue integration allowing the tissue to bind with the abutment and seal the implant site.

“It is very nice that there is a modification in design and length choices that will minimize soft tissue problems,” says Dr Chandrasekhar, Mt Sinai Medical Center & MEETH. “After the first one, the rest have been very fast and easy. Lots of time saved not having to remove soft tissue.”

Soft tissue preservation

With the previous Brånemark generation implant, surgery included permanent removal of the patient’s soft tissue and hair around the abutment. The DermaLock technology allows for a less invasive surgical procedure with tissue preservation leading to faster healing and improved cosmetic results. Only a few days after surgery with the DermaLock procedure, most of the area around the abutment is healed. The incision line is barely visible, and only a few millimetres of the abutment can be seen above the skin. Preserving the soft tissue also reduces the likelihood of postoperative pain and numbness.

Results from clinical experiences

The early clinical experiences since August 2012 clearly demonstrate that the DermaLock Abutment and surgery provides good soft tissue outcomes and significant clinical benefits.

"It is clinically evident that the new Baha linear incision technique is simpler and easier than the dermatome,” says Professor Rovó Laszló, Hungary. “Not having to perform soft tissue reduction is very positive. We can state that the post-op wound healing is much quicker; 7-10 days. According to the Holgers classification all our patients are good."

The Cochlear Baha BA400 Abutment is commercially available in many countries around the world including Europe and USA since February 2013. Surgeries have been performed using this new technology since August 2012.