



BALANCE CANAL OCCLUSION/RESURFACING SURGERY

Risks and Complications

Your balance problem may be helped by an operation to “plug” or resurface one or more of the inner ear balance canals. As with any surgery there are not only gains, but also risks. You must keep in mind that rarely, a patient may not benefit from the surgery, and the symptoms may be worse. The risks are listed below.

Hearing: This operation is designed to preserve hearing. Hearing loss after this procedure is a rare complication.

Dizziness: Spinning dizziness is common after this surgery for the first several days, but typically passes. Unsteadiness also commonly occurs and may persist for several weeks as the balance system compensates after the surgery. To speed up the recovery, it is important to stay very active and perform the balance exercises you were given.

Infection: After any surgery, infection is a potential complication. This is very rare after this surgery.

Facial Nerve Paralysis: The facial nerve controls movement on one side of the face and runs through the ear. Paralysis after this surgery is exceedingly rare, but may occur.

Numbness of the Ear: It is common to have numbness of the ear after any type of ear surgery. This will improve over several months, and only very rarely is permanent.

Spinal Fluid Leak: Spinal fluid bathes the brain and very rarely may leak out through the incision or through the nostrils after ear surgery. If this occurs, a procedure may need to be performed to stop the flow of fluid.

ringing: Ringing in the ear (tinnitus) is often present in patients undergoing this type of surgery. After surgery, ringing is usually less but can be worse and quite bothersome.

Taste Disturbance: The nerve that supplies one third of the taste to the tongue runs through the middle ear. Therefore, temporary taste disturbance occurs rarely after this surgery.

Our goal in performing balance canal occlusion surgery is to help you with the balance symptoms you are experiencing. But like other aspects of life, there are no guarantees of success. If, by chance, you have had a bad result after surgery, we will do our best to treat the problem. Please let me or the staff of the Dallas Ear Institute know if you have any questions.

Signature

Date