



STAPEDECTOMY

Risks and Complications of Surgery

Your ear problem may be helped by a stapedectomy. 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 hearing may be worse. The risks of this procedure are listed below.

Hearing: Although 95% of patients experience improved hearing after surgery, approximately 4% have no change in hearing and 1% have a further or complete loss of hearing.

Dizziness: Temporary dizziness, lasting up to a month, occurs commonly after stapedectomy. However in less than 1% of patients, dizziness can be severe and long lasting.

ringing: Ringing in the ear (tinnitus) is often present in patients with a hearing loss. Therefore, most patients already have some ringing before surgery. After surgery, ringing is usually less but can be worse and quite bothersome.

Facial Nerve Paralysis: The facial nerve controls movement on one side of the face and runs through the ear. A temporary paralysis occurs in less than 1% of patients after surgery. Permanent paralysis is very rare, occurring in less than 1 out of 1,000 patients.

Perforation: In less than 10% of patients a small tear in the eardrum can occur. This normally heals without further difficulty. In approximately 1% of patients a hole in the eardrum (perforation) could persist, requiring a patch procedure at a later time.

Infection: After any surgery, infection is a potential complication. This only rarely complicates a stapedectomy, causing a significant problem in less than 5% of the cases.

Taste Disturbance: The nerve that supplies one third of the taste to the tongue runs through the middle ear and may have to be pushed aside or cut in order to do ear surgery. Therefore, temporary taste disturbance occurs in 10% of patients and can last as long as one year. Permanent taste disturbance and dryness of the mouth may occur in 1% of the patients.

Our goal in performing a stapedectomy is to give you the best hearing possible with the least risk of failure. 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 us or the staff of the Dallas Ear Institute know if you have any questions.

Date

Signature