



## **TYMPANOPLASTY/MASTOIDECTOMY**

### **Risks and Complications of Surgery**

Your ear problem may be helped by a Tympanoplasty/Mastoidectomy. As with any surgery there are not only gains but also risks. You must keep in mind that you may not benefit from the surgery and your hearing may be worse after surgery. The following information will help you understand the results and risks.

Hearing: Although 80% of our patients experience a hearing improvement after surgery, 19% have the same hearing and 1% a further or complete loss of hearing.

Dizziness: Temporary dizziness lasting up to a month occurs in 5% of patients, but permanent dizziness happens in only 1 out of 500 patients.

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.

Facial Nerve Paralysis: An uncommon postoperative complication of ear surgery is temporary paralysis of one side of the face. This may occur as a result of an abnormality or swelling of the nerve and usually subsides spontaneously. On very rare occasions the nerve may be injured at the time of surgery. When this happens a skin sensation nerve is removed from the upper part of the neck to replace the facial nerve. Paralysis of the face under these circumstances might last six months to a year and there would be a permanent residual weakness. Eye complications, requiring treatment by a specialist, could develop.

Perforation: Our purpose may be to close the eardrum hole (perforation), but not all patients heal the same and the hole may reappear. About 90% of our patients have an intact eardrum after surgery, but 10% develop another perforation. In revision surgery 3 out of 4 patients will heal with an intact eardrum.

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 less than 1% of patients.

Infection: The major purpose of this surgery is to remove infection, and the chance of infection clearing is 95%. The remaining patients may still have some trouble with infection after surgery.

Our goal in performing a Tympanoplasty/Mastoidectomy 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 a bad result after surgery, we will do our best to treat the problem. Please let me or the Dallas Ear Institute staff know if you have any questions or concerns.

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Signature

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Date