



Greenville Ear, Nose & Throat

Mastoidectomy and Tympanoplasty Risks or Complications

Listed below are possible complications or risks associated with mastoidectomy and tympanoplasty (including stage reconstruction procedures). As with any surgery, unforeseen complications (though rare) may develop as well.

Dizziness: Some unsteadiness is common the first few days after surgery. Dizziness with sudden head motion may last for several weeks. On rare occasions, dizziness may be prolonged.

Taste changes and dry mouth: These are not uncommon for a few weeks after surgery. They may be prolonged in 5 percent of patients.

Hearing loss: Hearing may be worse after surgery if the hearing bones cannot be reconstructed at the time of surgery. In 1 percent of patients, severe hearing loss may occur and may prevent the use of a hearing aid in the affected ear. In some cases, a second procedure may be needed to improve hearing.

Tinnitus (head noise): If hearing decreases after surgery, tinnitus may occur or become more noticeable.

Infection: Infection rarely occurs after surgery. If an infection develops, however, it could lead to meningitis (an infection in the fluid and tissues surrounding the brain), which is a serious condition that could require prolonged antibiotic therapy and/or hospitalization.

Facial weakness: Temporary weakness on one side of the face is a rare complication of ear surgery. It may occur because of an abnormality or swelling of a facial nerve. Permanent paralysis of a facial nerve is extremely rare. Eye complications, which require treatment by a specialist, rarely develop.

Hematoma (*collection of blood under the skin incision*): Hematomas develop in a small percentage of cases and require prolonged hospitalization and healing. Surgical removal of the clot may be needed if a hematoma occurs.

Failure of the eardrum to heal: Failure of the eardrum to heal usually is associated with infection and occurs in approximately 5 percent of cases.

General anesthesia complications: Risks are associated with any anesthesia, including breathing problems and cardiac arrhythmia. Please discuss the risks of anesthesia with the anesthesiologist.

Please call our office if you have questions about this information:

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