



***TYMPANOPLASTY, MASTOIDECTOMY AND OTHER OPERATIONS  
FOR CORRECTION OR CHRONIC EAR INFECTION***

---

PATIENT

SURGERY DATE

TIME OF SURGERY

BENEFITS: \_\_\_\_\_

**RISKS AND COMPLICATIONS OF SURGERY:**

***Complications of Routine Ear Surgery:***

The following are the possible complications and risks associate with these procedures. In addition to those listed, there may be some unforeseen complications with any operative procedure.

Ear Infection: with drainage, swelling, and pain, may persist following surgery, or on rare occasions, may develop several days following surgery due to poor healing of the ear tissue. Sometimes, additional surgery might be necessary to control the infection.

Loss of Hearing: In 3% of the ears operated the hearing is further impaired permanently due to the extent of the disease or due to complications in the healing process; nothing further can be done in these instances. On occasion, there is total loss of hearing in the operated ear, in some cases, a two stage operation is necessary. In the first stage, the ear disease is removed. In the second stage the middle ear bones are repaired in an attempt to improve hearing. The hearing is usually worse after the first operation.

Tinnitus: Should the hearing be worse following surgery, tinnitus (head noise) likewise may be more pronounced.

Dizziness: may occur immediately following surgery due to swelling in the ear and irritation of the inner ear structures. Some unsteadiness may persist for a week postoperatively. On rare occasions, dizziness is prolonged.

Taste Disturbance and Mouth Dryness: is not uncommon for a few weeks following surgery. In 5% of the patients, this disturbance is prolonged.

Facial Paralysis: An uncommon postoperative complication or 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 rare occasions, the facial nerve may be injured at the time of surgery or it may be necessary to excise it in order to eradicate infection. When this happens a skin sensation nerve is removed from the upper part of the neck to replace the facial nerve. Complete paralysis of one side of the face under these circumstances might last six months to a year and there would be permanent residual weakness. Eye complications requiring treatment by a specialist could develop.

***Complications related to Mastoidectomy:***

Hematoma: A hematoma (collection of blood under the skin incision) develops in a small percentage of cases, prolonging hospitalization and healing. Re-operation to remove the clot may be necessary if this complication occurs.

Cerebral Spinal Fluid Leak: (leak of fluid surrounding the brain) is a very rare complication. Re-operation may be necessary to stop the leak.



Intracranial (brain) complications: such as meningitis or brain abscess, even paralysis, were common in cases of chronic otitis media prior to the antibiotic era. Fortunately, these are now extremely rare complications.

Complications Related to General Anesthesia: are very rare, but can be serious. You may discuss these with the anesthesiologist if you desire.

ALTERNATIVES:

---

---

I have read, understand, and considered the risks and complications of this surgery and accept them.

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

WITNESS: \_\_\_\_\_