



Stapes Surgery

-Risks of surgery:

- *Taste change is common after this operation and typically improves over weeks to months. Rarely can this be permanent.
- *There is always a low risk of infection and/or bleeding with any operation, as well as risk from anesthesia.
- *Additional rare risks include temporary or permanent facial weakness, dizziness or imbalance, permanent hearing loss (~1%).

-Day of surgery:

- *Most often the operation is performed as an outpatient (same-day) procedure under sedation or general anesthesia.
- *Do not eat or drink after midnight the day prior to surgery (no coffee or breakfast the day of surgery).
- *Your primary care physician and/or anesthesiologist will review your medication instructions with you and instruct you what to avoid the morning of surgery.

-Post-operative care:

- *The band-aid and any additional dressing placed (over or around the ear) may be removed after 24 hours.
- *You will have packing in the ear that must stay in place until your return visit. Use a cotton ball as needed if there is ear drainage. This is normal and should lessen with time.
- *The operation does not typically cause much post-operative pain, but you will be given pain medication after the procedure. We will only refill pain medication for post-operative pain for up to two weeks after the procedure, then you must discuss with your primary care physician.
- *No nose blowing or heavy lifting over 5 pounds for 2 weeks.
- *You must keep the ear dry after surgery for 6 weeks (or until cleared by your surgeon)- use a cotton ball with ointment coating the outside when showering.
- *Most people take about one week off from work or normal activities- you may return to work sooner if desired.

-Additional post-operative information:

- *It is normal to hear funny noises in the ear (buzzing, ringing, popping) and feel pressure while the area heals.
- *The packing in the ear will take up to six weeks to dissolve, and final hearing result is not expected until after this time.
- *Call the office for any swelling, and/or redness of the incision site, fever, or other concerns.