

Arizona Hearing & Balance Center
Michael J. Fucci, MD

MIDDLE FOSSA CRANIOTOMY

RISKS & RESULTS

As with any surgery, there are gains but also risks. The following information will help you understand the risks and results of the above surgery.

HEARING:

Up to 10% of patients may develop a severe hearing impairment in the surgical ear.

TINNITUS:

Tinnitus (head noise) usually remains the same as before surgery. If the hearing is worse following surgery, tinnitus may then be more noticeable.

DIZZINESS:

Dizziness may occur following surgery and may be severe for days or weeks. It may be followed by prolonged unsteadiness with head motion.

FACIAL PARALYSIS:

Temporary weakness of one side of the face is an uncommon postoperative complication of ear surgery. It may occur as the result of an abnormality or a swelling of the nerve, or nerve damage, and could require further surgery. Eye complications, requiring treatment by a specialist, could develop.

SPINAL FLUID LEAK:

This operation results in a temporary leak of cerebrospinal fluid (fluid surrounding the brain). This leak is always closed prior to the completion of surgery. On occasion the leak may reopen and further surgery may be necessary to stop it.

INFECTION:

Infection is a rare occurrence following surgery. Should it develop, it could lead to meningitis which is an infection in the fluid and the tissues surrounding the brain, and would require prolonged hospital treatment.

HEMATOMA:

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

BRAIN COMPLICATIONS:

Temporary paralysis of half the body has occurred following a middle fossa operation due to brain swelling. This complication is extremely rare.

TRANSFUSION REACTION:

It is sometimes necessary to administer blood transfusions during middle fossa surgery. Fortunately, immediate adverse reactions to transfusions are rare. A potential late complication of a blood transfusion would be a viral infection such as hepatitis. When this complication occurs, medical treatment and possibly hospitalization would be necessary. It is possible for patients to donate their own blood for use during their own surgery. This should be discussed with your surgeon well in advance of your surgery.

ANESTHESIA:

Anesthetic complications are very rare, but can be serious. You may discuss these with the anesthesiologist if desired.

MIDDLE FOSSA CRANIOTOMY-RESULTS & RISKS INFORMED CONSENT

Our intent is to make sure you understand your or your child's surgery (Please Circle)

1. Do you understand the type of surgery you will have? Yes No

2. Do you know the purpose of the surgery? Yes No

3. Were you told what we expect to accomplish? Yes No

4. Do you have a copy of Middle Fossa Craniotomy-Results & Risks? Yes No

5. Have you read Middle Fossa Craniotomy-Results & Risks? Yes No

6. Do you understand Middle Fossa Craniotomy-Results & Risks? Yes No

7. Do you understand there are no guarantees? Yes No

8. Are you satisfied that all your questions have been answered? Yes No

9. Are you allergic to any medications? Yes No

If yes, please list: _____

Your surgeon will be: _____

I ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF THE DOCUMENT ENTITLED "**MIDDLE FOSSA CRANIOTOMY- RESULTS AND RISKS**". I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THIS DOCUMENT, AND HAVE HAD ALL MY QUESTIONS ANSWERED.

I HEREBY AUTHORIZE ARIZONA HEARING AND BALANCE CENTER, ITS PHYSICIANS, NURSES, EMPLOYEES AND AGENTS TO PERFORM THE SURGERY REFERRED TO HEREIN. I HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBLE RISKS AND REWARDS OF SUCH SURGERY WITH DR. FUCCI, WHO HAS EXPLAINED THE PROCEDURE AND HAS ANSWERED ALL OF MY QUESTIONS TO MY SATISFACTION.

Patient's Name: _____ Date of Birth _____

Date of Surgery: _____

Patient is scheduled for: _____

Signature: _____