

Arizona Hearing & Balance Center

Michael J. Fucci, MD

Stapedectomy Results & Risks

You have a hearing loss due to otosclerosis which may be helped by a stapedectomy. As with any surgery, there are gains but also risks. You must keep in mind that your hearing may be worse after surgery. The following information will help you understand the results and risks of stapedectomy.

Hearing Loss:

Although 95% of our patients experience hearing improvement, in 4% of cases the hearing remains the same, and 1% have a further or complete loss of hearing.

Dizziness:

Temporary dizziness, lasting up to a month, occurs in 2% of patients. Permanent dizziness is possible but very rare.

Taste Disturbances and Mouth Dryness:

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 a stapedectomy. Therefore, a 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 1% of patients.

Tinnitus:

Tinnitus (noise in the ear or head) is often present in patients with a hearing loss; therefore, many patients already have tinnitus before surgery. After surgery tinnitus is often reduced but can be unchanged or, in rare cases, worse. Occasionally, patients that did not have tinnitus before surgery will develop it following surgery.

Facial Paralysis:

The facial nerve controls movement on one side of the face and runs through the middle ear. A temporary paralysis of the face, lasting several days, is seen in 1% of patients. Permanent paralysis of the face is very rare.

Perforation:

One patient in 250 may develop a hole in the ear drum (perforation) after surgery. In most cases the perforation can be repaired.

Infection:

The chance of infection in the ear or arm is 1%.

Our goal in performing a stapedectomy is to provide you with the best chance for success with the least risk of failure. Like other aspects of life, there are no guarantees. If you have a bad result after surgery, we will do our best to treat the problem. Please let Dr. Fucci or our staff know if you have questions.

Stapedectomy Results & Risks
Informed Consent

Our intent is to make sure you understand your or your child's ear 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 Stapedectomy Results & Risks?
Yes No

5. Have you read Stapedectomy Results & Risks?
Yes No

6. Do you understand Stapedectomy 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
"STAPEDECTOMY RESULTS & RISKS". I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTOOD
THIS DOCUMENT AND HAVE HAD ALL MY QUESTIONS ANSWERED.

I HEARBY AUTHORIZE ARIZONA HEARING & 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 Surgery:

Patient is scheduled for:

Signature: _____ DOB _____