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### **Stapedectomy**

During a stapedectomy, an incision is made in the skin of the ear canal, the skin and eardrum are lifted to expose the stapes bone, and the stapes bone is removed. An incision is made above the ear and the tissue is removed. The tissue is used to cover the opening created by the stapes bone removal. A prosthesis is put in place where the stapes bone had been and the eardrum and the skin of the ear canal are laid back in place. The ear canal is then packed.

The surgery takes about one hour to perform and it generally takes about four weeks for the ear to heal. No heavy or strenuous activity during this time. After the first week, patients may resume lighter activities.

Your ear will be a little sore after the operation. There may be some discomfort in your ear when opening and closing your mouth.

You must not blow your nose or try to stop any sneezing. Blowing your nose or trying to stop a sneeze will increase the pressure underneath the ear drum, and could push the new “bone” out of place.

You must be careful when taking a shower and washing your hair that you do not get the operated ear wet. There is a small risk that the ear may bleed when you get home. Call our office if you have any issues with bleeding.

#### **Risks of Stapedectomy:**

**Hearing Loss:** There is a slight chance of hearing loss in the inner ear. This loss can be complete and permanent.

#### **Dizziness**

: Some patients may experience dizziness that resolves itself within a day of surgery.

#### **Facial Paralysis**

: The nerve that innervates the muscles of the face courses through the ear. Therefore, there is a slight chance of facial paralysis. Your surgeon will use special equipment to monitor this nerve during surgery.

#### **Tinnitus**

#### **Taste Abnormalities**

#### **Four less common but serious complications:**

Complete loss of hearing to the operated ear

Chronic dizziness

Permanent ringing or buzzing noise on the operated ear

Paralysis of your face muscles on the side of the operation

Please call our office for any questions or concerns.