

DRS. GEHRIS, JORDAN, DAY & ASSOCIATES, LLC

Head and Neck Surgery . Ear, Nose and Throat Surgery . Facial Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery

Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery

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Mastoidectomy

Mastoidectomy is an operation to remove disease from the bone behind the ear (the mastoid) when medical management is inadequate. Sometimes a mastoidectomy is required in order to gain better exposure to the disease. Mastoidectomy is indicated for post-auricular (behind the ear) swelling or pain unresponsive to medical treatment, infected drainage from the ear unresponsive to medical treatment, persistent middle ear disease that is unresponsive to medical management, fullness in the ear, hearing loss, as an approach to failed tympanoplasty, and when there is evidence of chronic disease in a patient who may not be aware of a problem such as retraction pocket with squamous debris, cholesteatoma, mucus crusts from non-infected discharge, and glomus tympanicum.

Often you will have had a hearing test and a CT scan before having surgery.

Risks/complications of surgery include: Persistent ear drainage, infection in the mastoid cavity, bleeding, hearing loss, and weakness of the face on the side of surgery. This weakness is due to injury to the facial nerve and usually requires re-operation to repair. Healing is never 100% and may take several years. You may also experience dizziness or a short time after surgery, but it is rarely permanent. Loss of taste on the side of the tongue may occur and last a few weeks, but may be permanent. Meatal or canal stenosis, which is when the opening to the ear canal closes due to scarring when the wound is healing, may occur. To prevent this stenosis, a meatoplasty (wide surgical opening) of the ear opening may be done. This creates a deformity of the outer ear. Infection and anesthesia reactions can occur, as with any surgery.

What to expect after your surgery

You will most likely go home the same day or the day after surgery. You may have a drain in place that will be removed the first post-operative day. You may go home with an oral antibiotic prescription, and possibly ear drops as well. Any sutures behind your ear and the outer packing will be removed one week after your surgery. The rest of the packing will be removed over a period of two to six weeks. You will then have series of follow-up appointments to monitor your recovery.

If you have any questions between now and the time of surgery, please feel free to call the office and speak to one of our associates.

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