



RISKS AND COMPLICATIONS OF SEPTOPLASTY AND/OR TURBINECTOMY

Purpose of Surgery: _____

Alternative Treatment: _____

Nasal septoplasty is designed to straighten the nasal septum, the midline nasal structure that separates the nasal cavities. Turbinectomy is the partial excision of tissue on the lateral walls of the nasal cavities. Both of these procedures are intended to relieve nasal airway obstruction and to improve nasal airflow and breathing.

Problems such as yours are usually helped by nasal septoplasty and/or turbinectomy. As with any surgery, there are both potential benefits and risks. The following information will help you understand the risks of sinus surgery. As with any operation, there may be some unanticipated complications in addition to those listed here.

Infection: Though infection is not common, it is a risk with any surgical procedure. If infection does occur, usually it can be treated with antibiotics. Rarely drainage is required if an abscess develops.

Bleeding: Substantial bleeding requiring transfusion is extremely rare. After surgery it is normal to have some bloody discharge from your nose. This is usually self-limited and will stop on its own. Occasionally additional measures including nasal packing or additional surgery is needed to control excessive bleeding.

Crusting: Crusting in the nose may last from two to about six weeks after surgery. Prolonged crusting is rare; however, it can occur and may last up to one year. Crusting is usually reduced by the use of humidification and saline nasal spray.

Nasal Obstruction: There will be some nasal obstruction due to swelling inside the nose. This may last from days to a few weeks. Rarely there may be permanent nasal obstruction that may require another procedure to relieve.

Septal Perforation: Rarely when the inside of the nose heals, there may be a hole in the nasal septum. Although typically asymptomatic, this can be a source of nasal obstruction and intermittent bleeding. If problematic, a perforation may be closed with an additional procedure.

Sense of Smell: Nasal surgery may alter your sense of smell, and consequently, your appreciation of tastes. This is usually temporary due to postoperative swelling and nasal crusting and improves with healing. Rarely there may be severe loss of smell that does not return.

Anesthesia: There are risks associated with any type of anesthesia including but not limited to respiratory problems, drug reaction, brain damage, or even death. Other risks and hazards that may result from the use of general anesthetics include but are not limited to minor discomfort due to injury to the vocal cords, teeth, or eyes. You can discuss these risks with your anesthesiologist before your surgery.

I have read, understand and accept the risks and complications of this operation. I have made known to my physicians any medical term appearing in this form with which I am unfamiliar

and all such medical terms have been explained to my satisfaction. Alternative types of treatment have been discussed with me and I want to go ahead with surgery.

Signature: **X** _____

Date: _____

Print name: _____

Witness: _____