



Stapedectomy

Ear, Nose and Throat Department
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www.ulh.nhs.uk

References

If you require a full list of references for this leaflet please email patient.information@ulh.nhs.uk

The Trust endeavours to ensure that the information given here is accurate and impartial.



If you require this information in another language, large print, audio (CD or tape) or braille, please email the Patient Information team at patient.information@ulh.nhs.uk

Aim of the leaflet

This leaflet is aimed at patients undergoing stapedectomy surgery. It aims to explain the procedure and what to expect afterwards.

What is a stapedectomy?

A “stapedectomy” is when the stapes (one of the tiny bones in the ear) is removed and a prosthesis (false piece) is put in its place.

Why do I need a stapedectomy?

A stapedectomy is done because the small bones in your ear have become fused (stuck together), this is called “otosclerosis.”

This condition prevents sound being conducted into your hearing organ and causes you to have hearing loss.

What are the benefits of surgery?

Your hearing may be improved.

What are the risks involved?

- Immediate deafness
- Delayed deafness
- Vertigo (dizziness lasting a couple of days to months)
- Tinnitus (ringing in the ears)
- Facial palsy (weakness/numbness down the side of your face, which usually resolves, but is sometimes permanent)
- Infection

Notes

All information written in this leaflet has been verified for use by our Consultant ENT Surgeons.

For further information talk to staff or see <http://www.entuk.org>

What happens before my operation?

This operation requires an overnight stay in hospital, sometimes 2 nights. It can be done as a day case providing a criteria is met.

You may be asked to attend a pre-assessment clinic. Your medical history will be noted and the operation explained.

You will be asked to sign your consent form. Ensure you understand your operation before signing.

Any necessary tests will be carried out e.g. blood tests, x-rays, ECG (tracing of your heart).

The medication you currently take will be discussed with you and advice given as required. If you are not asked to attend one of these clinics all the above will be carried out when you are admitted.

You will receive information about when to stop eating and drinking before your operation.

You will usually be seen by the anaesthetist on the ward.

What happens during my operation?

You will be given a general anaesthetic and will be asleep during the operation.

A small incision (cut) is made down the skin crease within the ear (end-aural incision).

The surgeon will remove the affected stapes bone and replace it with a prosthesis before closing the wound using dressing within the ear and dissolvable stitches to close the wound.

The operation takes approximately 1/2 hours to complete.

What should I expect after my operation?

- You will be awake quite soon after returning to the ward.
- If you have any discomfort the nurse will give you some pain killers.
- You should be able to eat and drink within a couple of hours, providing you do not feel sick. If you do, the nurse can give you medicine for this.
- You may have a dressing over your ear with a head bandage to keep it in place. This will be removed at about 24 to 48 hours after your surgery. Usually before discharge home.
- You will have a dressing (wick) deep in the ear, this must not be dislodged and stays in place for 2 to 3 weeks. It will be removed by your surgeon in clinic.
- You can use cotton wool in the ear entrance to protect the ear dressing and to soak up any leakage. This must be changed at least 3 times a day.
- You will be more comfortable lying on the side that has not been operated on.
- You will be gradually sat up and mobilised as you may have some vertigo/dizziness after the surgery. Medication can be given for this.
- Do not do anything too active or strenuous too soon, allow your ear to heal and recover.
- You should also avoid blowing your nose or sneezing as this can dislodge the prosthesis.

Following discharge home

- You may have some pain/discomfort for a while, you will have been given some pain relief medicine to take home.
- You will need to take 1 week off work to rest. A sick certificate will be given to you on the ward before discharge home.
- You will be given an appointment to come back to clinic in 2 to 3 weeks to have the ear dressing removed.
- You must keep your ear dry, therefore, care must be taken when washing.
- If your "inner-ear" dressing is dislodged, contact the ward.

You may need to contact your GP if:

- You develop severe pain in your ear
- You develop offensive discharge
- You develop a temperature.

Contact details

If you have any questions about any of the information contained in this leaflet please contact:

Ear, Nose and Throat Department

Clinic 6, Lincoln County Hospital (01522) 573255

Surgical Admissions Unit (01522) 573144/573089