

Functional Endoscopic Sinus Surgery

Functional endoscopic sinus surgery uses endoscopes (telescopes) to accurately remove only that tissue required to widen the natural openings (ostia) of the sinuses. Often removing small amounts of abnormal tissue such as swelling or polyps from the ethmoid sinuses will then allow drainage of the other sinuses without the need to physically drain or scrape them as was needed in the past

Risks of surgery

- ▶ Bleeding
 - ▶ Bleeding is a potential risk in most forms of sinus surgery. On occasion significant bleeding may require termination of the procedure and the placement of nasal packing. Bleeding following surgery may require the placement of nasal packing. Blood transfusion is rarely required.
- ▶ Post operative discharge
 - ▶ Some bloody post nasal discharge will occur for approximately two weeks after this procedure. This is normal and slowly improves. You should not blow your nose for approximately 5 days following the procedure.
- ▶ Damage to the Nasolacrimal Duct
 - ▶ This duct carries tears from the eye into the nose. If bruised, swollen or damaged tears can run down the cheek post operatively. The problem is usually temporary.
- ▶ CSF leak
 - ▶ All operations on the ethmoid sinus carry a rare chance of creating a leak of cerebrospinal fluid (the fluid that surrounds the brain). Should this rare complication occur, it creates a potential pathway for infection, which could result in meningitis. Notify Dr Kelly if there is clear, watery, salty fluid (not mucous) from the nose.
- ▶ Eye Problems

Risks of surgery (continued from page 1)

- ▶ The bone separating the nose from the eye socket is extremely thin. A small breach in this bone can give a black eye or temporary problems with the muscles around the eye causing double vision. A larger breach whilst very rare could, conceivably give rise to prolonged double vision or even loss of vision.

Risks of anaesthesia

- ▶ You will be subject to the usual risks for general anaesthesia. Adverse reactions to general anaesthesia do occasionally occur, and although unusual, could be serious. You may discuss this further with your anaesthesiologist, if you so desire.

Other risks

- ▶ Numbness or discomfort in the upper front teeth may occur for a period of time after some procedures. Occasionally some swelling, bruising or temporary numbness of the lip, or swelling or bruising of the area around the eye may occur. Blowing your nose in the early post operative period might result in a temporary collection of air under the skin and facial swelling for a period of time.
- ▶ A decreased sense of smell is also a possibility.
- ▶ Failure to cure the problem or recurrent disease
- ▶ As in all sinus surgery it is possible that the disease may not be cured by the operation or that recurrent disease may occur at a later time. In this case, subsequent medical or surgical therapy might be required.