

Sinus Surgery Consent: Risks and Benefits



Planned Procedure(s): _____ Septoplasty
_____ Turbinate Reduction _____
Balloon Sinuplasty

_____ Endoscopic Sinus Surgery _____ Polypectomy _____ Other _____

Sinus and nasal surgery are recommended only after it has been determined that medical management of your disease has been unsuccessful. While these procedures are generally very successful, patients must be aware of certain risks before electing to proceed. These risks include, but are not limited to, the following:

- **POST-OPERATIVE BLEEDING.** Mild to moderate bleeding is expected up to 48 hours after surgery. This is the most common complication. Avoiding blood thinning medications will help reduce this risk.
- **INFECTION.** The most common reason patients undergo sinus surgery is usually related to infection. Therefore, the patient with sinusitis is at risk of developing certain other infections in this area (abscesses, meningitis, etc.) regardless of whether they manage the sinusitis with or without surgery.
- **SMELL.** The sense of smell usually improves, although it may occasionally worsen, depending on the extent of infection, allergy or polyps.
- **VOICE CHANGES.** One of the functions of the sinuses is to affect resonance, so vocal professionals should be aware of potential changes in their voice after sinus surgery.
- **NASAL OBSTRUCTION.** Much of the nasal septum is made of cartilage, which has "memory" - the propensity to move back to its original position. Despite certain measures performed by the surgeon at the time of septoplasty this may still occur and require a secondary procedure. Small scar bands may also occur in the nose and require removal by the surgeon at postoperative visits.
- **NUMBNESS.** A transient numbness of the front upper teeth, lip or nose may occur after balloon surgery but is usually self-limiting.
- **INTRAORBITAL COMPLICATIONS.** Injury to tear duct or sac resulting in tearing of the eyes. This may require further surgery. The orbit is situated next to the sinuses but is separated by a layer of bone. Visual loss and blindness have been reported but are extremely rare. The Image Guidance System by Dr. Atkins greatly reduces this risk.
- **INTRACRANIAL COMPLICATIONS.** Drainage of brain spinal fluid from the nose may occur, which may require further surgery. Again, the use of the Image Guidance System by Dr. Atkins greatly reduces this risk.
- **ANESTHESIA COMPLICATIONS.** Adverse reactions to local or general anesthesia may occur, including cardiac and pulmonary complications.
- **SMOKING.** Smoking may prolong the healing process, we advise you to stop smoking prior to surgery and during your recovery.

Other alternatives have been discussed with the patient (including no surgery with monitoring, continued medical management) and he/she has agreed to the procedure(s).

Patient / Guardian signature

Date

Witness

Date