

### Complications of Nasal and Sinus Surgery

Listed are potential complications of functional endoscopic sinus surgery (including FESS, minimally invasive sinus surgery, endoscopic tumor resection). It is difficult to give exact percentages for potential complications as these can vary based upon anatomical abnormalities and the patient's prior surgery (if any has been performed).

During surgery, your surgeon is operating within the narrow spaces of your nose. Adjacent to your sinuses are structures including your eyes and brain. Injury to these structures can be serious. If anything serious does happen, you will be informed and the appropriate measures to repair or minimize any problems will be taken.

Potential complications of nasal and sinus surgery (including septal surgery/ septoplasty) include but are not limited to:

#### **Risks!**

1. Blindness! <<1%
2. CSF Leak (brain fluid leak) << 1%
3. injury to the internal carotid artery <<<1%
4. double vision (permanent or temporary)
5. need for revision surgery <10% (multiple factors)
6. scar band formation ~10%
7. middle meatal closure/ narrowing ~6%
8. decreased or loss of sense of smell <3%
9. obstruction/ injury to the lacrimal system (tearing) <1%
10. post operative infection ~5%
11. eye/ orbital/ periorbital bruising ~1%
12. orbital/ periorbital haematoma/ bruising <1%
13. major bleeding (intra-operatively) <1%
14. post operative bleeding (nose bleeds) <1%
15. bleeding requiring transfusion <1%
16. septal perforation following nasal septum surgery <2%
17. Scarring / narrowing of the sinus opening <2%
18. mucous crusting in the nose <1%
19. middle turbinate lateralization <3%
20. nasal and/ or facial pain, headaches <1%

This list is not comprehensive but includes the most common major and minor complications encountered during nasal and sinus surgery. Obviously, there is always potential for **unforeseen complications**. All necessary precautions are taken during surgery to minimize potential complications.

Several factors are important for preventing complications including proper pre-operative preparation (antibiotics +/- steroids as prescribed), attending **ALL** post operative appointments and not smoking.

Please feel free to discuss any questions you may have with Dr. Mechor.