

## Introduction

This procedure removes pathology in middle ear structure and mastoid air cells, and is indicated for the following condition: cholesteatoma, acute mastoiditis, chronic suppurative otitis media (CSOM) and chronic mastoiditis and tumour, though there is chance of incomplete relief of symptoms and recurrence.

## The Operation / Procedure

1. The procedure is carried out under general anesthesia
2. Skin incision is made either at the back or in front of the ear
3. Remove diseased mastoid under microscope
4. A pressure dressing may be needed after the operation in most cases
5. Facial nerve monitoring may be used if indicated

## Preoperative Preparation

1. Admit 1 day before or on same day of this “elective” operation.
2. Anaesthetic assessment before operation. Inform your doctors about drug allergy, regular medications or other medical conditions.
3. Keep fast for 6 to 8 hours before operation.
4. Empty bladder and change to operation clothes before transfer to operating room.
5. Pre-medication, antibiotic prophylaxis intravenous line may be required.
6. Shaving of hair around the ear may be necessary immediately before the operation.

## Postoperative Instruction

### A. General

1. Mild throat discomfort or pain because of intubation.
2. Mild discomfort or pain over the operation site. Inform nurse or doctor if pain severe.
3. Nausea or vomiting are common; inform nurses if symptoms severe.
4. Inform nurses if more analgesics are required.

### B. Wound care

1. You may have pain or blocking sensation in the ear.
2. The pressure dressing is usually taken off after one day. There will be dressing inside the ear. Please do not remove it by yourself. The doctor will change or take off the dressing at follow-up.
3. Some discharge from the ear is common. Please do not let any water get into the ear.

### C. Diet

Resume diet, usually 4 hours after anaesthesia, and when taking sips of water well.

**Common Risks and Complications** (not all possible complications are listed)**A. Anesthesia related complications**

1. Cardiovascular : myocardial infarction or ischaemia, stroke, deep vein thrombosis, pulmonary embolism, etc.
2. Respiratory : atelectasis, pneumonia, asthmatic attack, exacerbation of chronic obstructive airway disease.
3. Allergic reaction and shock.

\*\* Toxicity of local anaesthetic may result in serious complication although rare.

**B. Procedure related complications****Common Risks and Complications ( $\geq 1\%$  risk)**

1. Recurrence / residual disease.
2. Taste loss or disturbances.
3. Infection.
4. Allergic reaction to ear packing.
5. Bleeding.
6. Vertigo.
7. Worsening of conductive hearing loss.

**Uncommon Risks with Serious Consequences ( $<1\%$  risk)**

1. Facial nerve injury.
2. Pinna deformity.
3. Partial to total sensory hearing loss.
4. Intracranial injury causing cerebrospinal fluid leakage, intracranial infection and bleeding.
5. Ear canal stenosis.
6. Death due to serious surgical and anaesthetic complications.

**Alternative Treatment**

Regular aural toilet and medical treatment, antibiotics ear drops.

**Conditions that Would Not be Benefited by the Procedure**

1. Tinnitus
2. Dizziness
3. Hearing loss

**Consequences of No Treatment**

Progression of disease with complications.

**Things to take on discharge**

1. Contact your doctor or a nearby Accident & Emergency Department if you find increasing discharge, pain and or redness around the wound.
2. Take analgesics prescribed by your doctor if required.
3. See the doctor as scheduled.

**Remarks**

This is general information only and the list of complications is not exhaustive. Other unforeseen complications may occasionally occur. In special patient groups, the actual risk may be different. For further information please contact your doctor. Evangel Hospital reserves the right to amend this leaflet without prior notice. We welcome suggestions or enquiries on the information provided in this leaflet. Please contact our Healthcare professionals so that we could follow up and make improvement.

**Reference**

Hospital Authority: "Mastoidectomy" (2023)

Smart Patient: [http://www.ekg.org.hk/pilic/public/ENT\\_PILIC/ENT\\_Mastoidectomy\\_0123\\_engchi.pdf](http://www.ekg.org.hk/pilic/public/ENT_PILIC/ENT_Mastoidectomy_0123_engchi.pdf) (06-07-2023)