

## **Stapedectomy- A brief note**

Middle ear contains three ossicles (small bones). One of these is named stapes. Stapedectomy is a surgical procedure where stapes bone is removed. This surgery is done in a condition called otosclerosis where stapes is fixed and thus immobile. Fixity of ossicles results in hearing loss. So to restore hearing fixed stapes is removed and a prosthesis named piston is inserted. An alternative to surgery is hearing aid.

To assess hearing loss Pure Tone Audiometry is done. Tympanometry is also done. General medical status is assessed by blood investigations and ECG. Details regarding diseases, medications, allergies should be shared with the doctor. There will be restrictions regarding intake of food and fluid before and after surgery. It should be complied with. Please read document named **instructions to patients posted for surgery** for more information.

Surgery is usually done under general anaesthesia. It is done using surgical microscope. It is done through ear canal. No external incision is required. Duration of surgery is 1-2 hours.

Hearing improvement

is achieved in ninety percent of cases.

After surgery the patient is kept in post operative ward under observation for 3 hours and then shifted to room. In cases where further monitoring is required, the patient is shifted to ICU. Oral feeds can start 5 hours after surgery.

Patient may feel ear block & giddiness. Analgesic and antibiotic are given usually. If giddiness is significant labyrinthine sedatives are given. Patient is kept in the hospital for one day.

It is advised to stay at home for 1 week after surgery. There will be dressings around the ear. One should take care to avoid water entering the ear. While sneezing, the mouth should be kept open to reduce pressure in the ear. Strenuous exercises and swift movements should be avoided. Body bath can be taken. Head bath is deferred for 10 days. First postoperative visit is on the 7th day. Further follow ups at regular intervals are required for a period of three months to evaluate healing.

Complications reported are dizziness, facial weakness and hearing loss. Dizziness and facial weakness are temporary. Hearing loss though very rare is persistent.