

Upper Cape Ear, Nose & Throat, PC

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CLOSED REDUCTION OF NASAL FRACTURE

Purpose

When the nose is broken the nasal bones may be knocked out of alignment. If the nasal bones are left in this position they will set and create a crooked nose. A closed reduction of a nasal fracture is a procedure where the nasal bones are repositioned in straighter alignment. We say "closed" because there are no incisions.

Procedure

The procedure can be done in the office under straight local anesthesia or in a surgicenter using sedation. The nose is numbed with cottons placed in the nose and "novocaine" injected over the top of the nose bones. An instrument is then placed inside the nose and the bones repositioned. This will straighten the nasal bones but not change the position of the nasal tip. A splint is applied. Most patients are ready to go home by about an hour after the procedure if sedation was used.

Recovery

After discharge you should go home and rest with your head elevated to minimize bleeding, swelling and pain. There will be some mild pain and a narcotic will be prescribed for this. You should be able to resume a normal diet by the next day. You will probably be able to return to work by the next day. The eyes will occasionally become black and blue again after the fracture reduction. This should clear by two weeks.

You will need to refrain from bending, lifting or straining during the five to six days that the splint will be on. The splint must be kept dry to prevent it from loosening and falling off too soon. You will be seen in the office after five to six days to remove the splint. Once the splint is off you will be able to resume normal activities.

Risks and Complications

The biggest risk is that the nasal bones may set in an undesirable position. Every attempt is made to re-align the bones in straight fashion. The nasal bones may shift during the healing process. If the nasal bones set in an unsatisfactory position they can be surgically repositioned 6 weeks or more later by open reduction or rhinoplasty.

Bleeding and infection are possible, as with any surgery. There is not a high incidence of either of these complications with this type of surgery.

I have read, understand, and accept the risks and possible complications of this operation. Alternative treatments have been discussed with me and I want to go ahead with the surgery.

Patient's signature

Date

Witness