RISKS AND COMPLICATIONS OF SURGERY:
STAPEDECTOMY, TYMPANOTOMY, EXPLORATORY TYPE OF OPERATION

The following are the possible complications and risk associated with these procedures. In addition to those listed, there may be some unforeseen complications with any operative procedure.

• **Dizziness:** Some unsteadiness is common during the first few postoperative days. Dizziness on sudden head motion may persist for several weeks. On rare occasions, dizziness is prolonged.

• **Taste Disturbance and Mouth Dryness:** is not uncommon for a few weeks following surgery. In 5% of the patients, this disturbance is prolonged.

• **Loss of Hearing:** Further hearing loss develops in 2% of patients due to some complications in the healing process. In 1%, this hearing loss is very severe and may prevent the use of a hearing aid in the operated ear.

• **Tinnitus:** Should the hearing be worse following stapedectomy, tinnitus (head noise) likewise may be more pronounced.

• **Eardrum Perforation:** A perforation (hole) in the eardrum membrane develops in less than 1% of the patients and is usually due to an infection. Fortunately, the membrane may heal spontaneously. If healing does not occur, surgical repair (myringoplasty) may be required.

• **Weakness of the Face:** A very rare complication of stapedectomy is temporary weakness of the face. This may occur as the result of abnormality or swelling of the facial nerve.

• **General Anesthesia:** There are risks associated with any anesthesia. You may discuss anesthetic risks with your anesthesiologist.

I have read, understand, and considered the risks and complications of this surgery and accept them. I have been given written postoperative instructions to take with me. I understand these instructions and will follow them to the best of my ability.

Signed ________________________________ Date ____________________

Witness __________________________________________________

**After Hours Number – 1-800-925-1318**