

## Information on Mastoidectomy

**Mastoid**: The mastoid is a part of the temporal bone (bone housing the middle and inner ear) and is located behind the ear. It is made of a honeycomb-like structure and is full of air cells. The air cells are lined by a thin mucous membrane. The mastoid is connected to the part of the ear where the hearing and balance mechanisms are located.

The mastoid process is one of two projections of the mastoid bone at the base of the skull. It provides an attachment for certain muscles of the neck.



**Mastoiditis**: Is the inflammation and infection of the mastoid bone. The main cause is otitis media or infection of the middle ear. Some of the symptoms are ear pain, drainage from the external ear, swelling and redness around the mastoid process, impaired hearing, headache and fever. If left untreated it may lead to permanent hearing loss, meningitis, brain abscess and lesions which can be fatal.

**Cholesteatoma**: Is a cyst or sac of skin that starts forming backwards behind your eardrum into the middle ear and mastoid. It can lead to chronic ear infections and hearing impairment if not treated in time. The longer it remains the more damage it can do to the delicate structures of the ear. Treatment includes surgery to remove the cyst and repair the eardrum.

**Mastoidectomy**: Is the surgical procedure that removes the diseased mastoid air cells through an incision behind the ear.