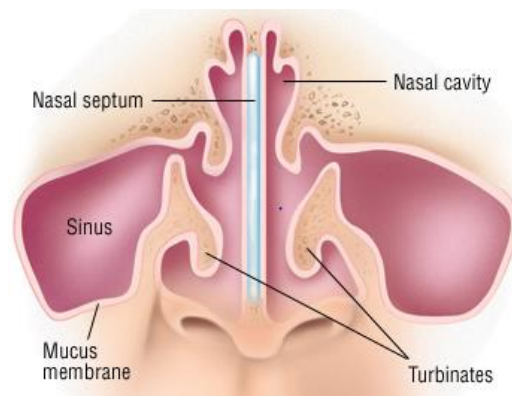


Information on Nasal (Septoplasty) and/or Sinus Surgery

Septum: The septum is the cartilage in the nose that separates the nostrils. It sits in the midline and divides the nostrils evenly. Many people have a septum that is deviated to one side which makes one nasal passageway smaller than the other and causes nasal obstruction.

Sinuses: Sinuses are air cavities in the skull and facial bones that are lined with soft tissue called mucosa. The main function of the sinuses is to produce mucus that moisturizes the inside of the nose. This mucus layer protects the nose from pollutants, micro-organisms, dust and dirt. There are 4 pairs of sinuses: frontal (in the forehead), maxillary (behind each cheekbone), ethmoid (between the eyes) and sphenoid (behind the eyes).



Sinusitis: Is a common condition where the lining of the sinuses become inflamed. It is usually caused by a viral infection and often improves within 2-3 weeks. Symptoms may include headaches, pressure/fullness in the middle of the face, pain behind the eyes, nasal congestion, runny nose, loss of smell, fatigue or sore throat. Occasionally, sinus infection can be caused by bacteria and require treatment with antibiotic.

Chronic Sinusitis: Inflammation of the sinuses can become chronic (lasting more than 3 months). This condition may persist in spite of medical therapy and may be aggravated by structural problems in the nose and sinuses that block the openings between the sinuses and nasal airway. Sometimes these conditions require surgical treatment to enlarge these openings.

Septoplasty: Is the surgical procedure to correct a deviated septum.