

CARE AND TREATMENT OF A SENSORY NERVE DISTURBANCE – PATIENT EDUCATION

As discussed prior to your procedure, risks related to any surgical procedure are possible despite the best of care. The risk(s) associated with oral sensory nerve disturbance can result in pain, sensitivity, numbness, tingling or prickling, or burning in the face, cheek(s), lips, chin, teeth, gums, and/or tongue (including loss of taste). These changes in feeling are typically referred to as paresthesia, anesthesia and/or dysesthesia and require close follow-up care.

What Causes Paresthesia, Anesthesia and/or Dysesthesia?

The nerves that give feeling to the face, cheeks, lips, chin, teeth, gums, and tongue are very close to where your surgery was performed. When these nerves are disturbed during surgery, they may not function normally. It is important to note that these nerves affect feeling, not movement. Therefore, you may feel numb or your food may taste different, but the affected areas should move normally. You should be able to smile, speak, and chew as usual.

How Long Can Paresthesia, Anesthesia and/or Dysesthesia Last?

The duration is unpredictable. It may last days, weeks, months, or, in rare cases, it may be permanent.

What Is the Treatment?

The change in feeling has the potential to spontaneously resolve, or repair, over time without treatment or with minimal additional treatment like certain prescription medications. During this spontaneous repair, the feeling may normalize gradually without self-awareness of improvement, or may be accompanied by sensations like tingling.

For some patients with sensory changes, nerve repair surgery may sometimes be necessary. If nerve repair surgery is being considered, consultation with a nerve surgery specialist (microsurgeon) and evaluation for potential nerve repair is recommended as soon as possible, to promote the best chance of success.

Follow Up Appointment(s)

It is very important you keep all of your follow-up appointments so your doctor can evaluate your progress and develop the best treatment plan for you. During these appointments, your doctor will perform tests that will help monitor your recovery, and he/she will record all changes in the area affected. Monitoring changes in your symptoms will allow your doctor to advise you of your prognosis and best treatment options. Failure to return for regular follow-up care will prevent your doctor from being able to assist you with any possible improvement.

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Patient Acknowledgment

My signature below acknowledges I that have read and understand this document, that I understand the information provided to me by the doctor and staff, and that my questions have been answered to my satisfaction.

Printed Patient's Name

Patient Birthdate (MM/DD/YYYY)

Patient's (or Legal Guardian's) Signature

Date

Printed Name of Witness

Witness Signature

Date