

Shoulder Arthroscopy/Subacromial Decompression/Distal Clavicle Resection: **Procedure & Surgical Risks**

- Outpatient Surgery
- Hospital or Surgery Center will contact you the day before about your time of arrival and specific instructions.
- After arrival, you will be evaluated by the anesthesia team and discuss different types of anesthesia and risks.
- Surgical procedure takes 45-60 minutes.

- Your shoulder will be prepped with a sterile solution. Three small incisions will be made along your shoulder. A sterile solution will be used to fill up your shoulder joint and an arthroscope (camera) will be inserted into your shoulder to visualize and diagnosis your problem. A variety of small surgical instruments (e.g., blunt hook, motorized shavers and burr, scissors) are inserted into the second small incision to:
 - Remove/pull on tissues (subacromial decompression)
 - Remove loose fragments of bone or cartilage
 - Remove bone spurs
 - Remove inflamed synovial tissue (bursa)/scar tissue

- For distal clavicle excision, a second incision will be made to remove bone.

- At the end of surgery, the fluid is drained from your shoulder and steri strips/sterile dressing is applied to your incisions. You will be placed in a sling for comfort. You will be moved to the recovery area. Instructions will be provided for wound care and restrictions.

- Prescriptions will be provided

- **Anesthesia Risks:** all risks of anesthesia will be discussed with you when meeting the anesthesia team on the date of your scheduled surgery.

- **Common Risks for Surgical Procedures:** Risks of any surgical procedure are low but do occur and may include the following: (1) Blood loss (2) Infection (3) Blood clot (4) Nerve injury (5) Blood vessel injury

- **Specific Risks to Shoulder Arthroscopy:** (1) Postoperative bleeding within the shoulder joint (2) Persistent swelling/drainage (3) Persistent pain (4) Stiffness (5) Persistent muscle weakness (6) Broken instruments inside the joint when performing surgery requiring open incision to remove (7) Fracture of acromion or distal clavicle (8) Numbness/tingling in arm

**These are the most common risks of surgery however this does not include all risks of surgery that may occur.

This sheet was provided to assist in your understanding of your surgical procedure and potential risks. It is meant to supplement the information that was discussed with you in the office. The incidence of surgical complications are low, however risks of surgery do exist. This additional information attempts to educate you on these risks, benefits, and common complications that could possible occur. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact the office. We feel it is important to educate our patients about their surgical procedures and options available to them. This sheet describes the most common aspects of a shoulder arthroscopy. Each patient's case and surgery is individual and may result in a scenario that is different than what is described above.