

Dr Clancy Surgery Complications 2001-2022	Total number of operations	Complication rate	Acceptable range	The audit includes all the patients I have provided surgery for from 2001 until now. I use published studies of surgical complications at other hospitals, in Australian and internationally, to benchmark my rate of complications. Benchmarking means using a standard to compare your results to. If my rate of complications with surgery are higher than these benchmarks, I need to look at why and take steps to improve my care of my patients.
post tonsillectomy haemorrhage (G3 readmission-4 RTT)	3015	2.3%	<4%	One person for every 43 people having tonsillectomy needed treatment for bleeding after surgery. Haemorrhage means bleeding. Bleeding can happen anytime in the 2 weeks it takes to heal after tonsil surgery. Most people have no bleeding. Some people have minor bleeding that settles at home. A grade 3 bleed needs treatment in hospital and settles with non-surgical treatment. A grade 4 bleed means surgery is needed to stop bleeding. RTT means return to the operating theatre.
post tonsillectomy readmission for nausea, vomiting or pain	3015	0.7%	<1%	One person for every 143 people having tonsillectomy needed to go back into hospital for management of nausea, vomiting or pain. With the move to partial tonsillectomy we are expecting this rate to decrease in future.
post adenoidectomy haemorrhage (G3-4)	2174	0.1%	<1%	One person for every thousand people having adenoidectomy needed treatment for bleeding after surgery. Haemorrhage means bleeding. Bleeding can happen anytime in the 2 weeks it takes to heal after adenoid surgery. Most people have no bleeding. Some people have minor bleeding that settles at home. A grade 3 bleed needs treatment in hospital and settles with non-surgical treatment. A grade 4 bleed means surgery is needed to stop bleeding. RTT means return to the operating theatre.
post MEVT tympanic membrane perforation	2683	1.0%	<3%	One person for every hundred people having grommets needed surgery to repair a hole in the ear drum one or more years after the first surgery. MEVT means middle ear ventilation tube. Usually the ear drum slowly heals and the tube is extruded or pushed out into the ear canal. Sometimes the hole in the ear drum doesn't heal. A hole in the ear drum is called a perforation. If the perforation doesn't heal within 12 months, an operation may be needed to repair the ear drum.
post septoplasty/turbinateplasty haemorrhage (G3-4)	620	1.0%	<4%	One person for every hundred people having surgery needed treatment for bleeding after surgery. Haemorrhage means bleeding. Bleeding can happen anytime in the 2 weeks it takes to heal after nasal surgery. Most people have no bleeding. Some people have minor bleeding that settles at home. A grade 3 bleed needs treatment in hospital and settles with non-surgical treatment. A grade 4 bleed means surgery is needed to stop bleeding. RTT means return to the operating theatre.
septal perforation	620	1.5%	<5%	One person for every 67 people having surgery had a hole in the septum (cartilage) due to surgery. No patient had symptoms from the hole or needed more treatment. A perforation is a hole. Septoplasty can result in a hole in the septum. This is often asymptomatic (causes no symptoms) but can cause a whistling sound or bleeding.
post FESS haemorrhage (G3-4)	519	1.2%	<2%	One person for every 83 people having surgery needed treatment for bleeding. Haemorrhage means bleeding. Bleeding can happen anytime in the 2 weeks it takes to heal after nasal surgery. Most people have no bleeding. Some people have minor bleeding that settles at home. A grade 3 bleed needs treatment in hospital and settles with non-surgical treatment. A grade 4 bleed means surgery is needed to stop bleeding. RTT means return to the operating theatre.
FESS eye injury	519	0.0%	<0.1%	No patients had eye problems after surgery. The sinuses are close to the eye. It's possible to damage the muscles that move the eye, causing double vision, or cause bleeding and pressure on the eye ball, leading to loss of vision.
FESS CSF leak repaired	519	0.4%	<2%	One person for every 250 people having surgery needed treatment for CSF leak. The sinuses are close to the brain. There is a thin plate of bone between the sinuses and the brain. The liquid around the brain is called CSF or cerebrospinal fluid. If the thin plate of bone between the brain and the nose is cracked during surgery, CSF drips into the nose. The leak is repaired during surgery.
myringoplasty failed	200	8.0%	<15%	One person for every 12.5 people having surgery didn't get full healing of the ear drum and needed a second operation. Myringoplasty means repairing a hole or perforation in the ear drum.
mastoidectomy vein/dura/VII/stapes injury	130	0.8%	<1%	One person for every 125 people having surgery need repair of hole in large vein during surgery. Mastoidectomy is ear surgery for chronic ear disease. The sigmoid sinus is a large vein taking blood from the brain back to the heart. The brain and the ear are separated by a thin plate of bone called the tegmen and a soft membrane called dura. The facial nerve makes the muscles in the face move, including closing the eye, closing the mouth and smiling. These 3 structures run through the ear and mastoid and can be damaged during ear surgery.
mastoidectomy semicircular canal injury	130	0.8%	<1%	One in every 125 people had injury to the balance organ during surgery, with temporary vertigo and problems balancing. The balance organ (semicircular canals) can be damaged during mastoidectomy, causing vertigo and poor balance for the first few days after surgery. The patient made a full recovery.
canalplasty TMP (all healed)	104	4.8%	<5%	One person for every 21 people having surgery needed repair of an ear drum injury during surgery. No person had long term problems after surgery. Canalplasty means making the ear canal larger and is often done for exostoses or surfer's ear and chronic ear disease. The bone of the ear canal is removed using a fine drill. The ear drum is very delicate and can be damaged during surgery. In all cases the hole in the ear drum was repaired during surgery and no further treatment was required.
canalplasty restenosis requiring revision surgery	104	1.9%	<5%	One person for every 53 people having surgery needed another operation to fix a narrowing in skin of the canal as the ear healed. Canalplasty means making the ear canal larger and is often done for exostoses or surfer's ear and chronic ear disease. Stenosis means narrow ear canal. Re-stenosis means the ear canal became narrow again after surgery.
total thyroidectomy hypo parathyroid at 4 weeks (temporary)	84	0.9%	<10%	One person for every 111 people having surgery needed calcium and vitamin D tablets for one month after surgery. The parathyroid glands can be damaged during thyroid surgery. Damage can be temporary (lasting less than 6 months) or permanent (lasting more than 6 months).
total thyroidectomy hypo parathyroid at 6 months (permanent)	84	1.5%	<5%	Hypoparathyroidism is treated with calcium and vitamin D tablets.
thyroidectomy RLN injury temporary NAR	304	1.0%	<10%	One person for every 67 people having surgery needed to take calcium and vitamin D every day long term after surgery.
thyroidectomy RLN injury permanent NAR	304	0.0%	<1%	One in one hundred people had temporary voice weakness after surgery (lasting less than 6 weeks). RLN means the recurrent laryngeal nerve. This nerve makes the vocal cords open and close. Damage to the nerve causes weakness of voice. Damage can be temporary, lasting days to months, or permanent, lasting forever. There is one recurrent laryngeal nerve on each side of the voice box. NAR means nerve at risk. Surgery to one side of the thyroid gland puts one nerve at risk and surgery to both sides of the thyroid gland puts two nerves at risk. The rate of damage to the nerves during surgery can be expressed as a percentage of the number of patients how had surgery or the number of nerves at risk.
thyroidectomy haemorrhage requiring RTT	216	4.6%	<2%	No person had permanent voice change after surgery.
other head and neck temporary cranial nerve palsy	126	11.1%	<10%	One person for every 22 people having surgery needed treatment for bleeding, including an operation. Haemorrhage means bleeding. Bleeding can happen during the first 24 hours after thyroid surgery. Bleeding can cause pressure on the windpipe or trachea and needs to be treated urgently. Usually, surgery is needed to stop bleeding. RTT means return to the operating theatre to stop bleeding.
permanent cranial nerve	126	0.8%	<2%	One person for every 9 people having surgery had temporary weakness. Other head and neck surgery includes parotidectomy and surgery to remove the submandibular gland, branchial cyst, thyroglossal cyst and lymph nodes of the neck. The cranial nerves are 12 nerves that come from the brain and give feeling or sensation to the skin and to the eyes, nose, mouth and throat and control movement of the muscles in eyes, face, mouth, throat and neck. Palsy means weakness of the nerve. Temporary palsy lasts for days to months. Permanent palsy does not recover at all. The commonest types of cranial nerve palsy cause weakness in the facial muscles or tongue.
other head and neck sialocoele	126	2.4%	<10%	One person for every 125 people having surgery had long term weakness of the face or voice box after surgery.
other head and neck haematoma RTT	126	0.8%	<2%	One person for every 42 people having surgery needed treatment for swelling from saliva under the skin after surgery. A sialocoele is a collection of saliva under the skin following saliva gland surgery (parotid or submandibular gland removal). It is treated with pressure dressings and sometimes drainage using a needle and syringe. It's a temporary side effect of surgery.
wound infection (head and neck, major ear)	776	1.2%	<1%	One person for every 125 people having surgery needed treatment for bleeding including an operation. A haematoma is a collection of blood under the skin after surgery, due to bleeding within 24 hours of surgery. RTT means return to the operating theatre to treat haematoma and bleeding.
Death in non palliative setting	10407	0.0%		One person for every 83 people having surgery needed treatment for infection in the skin wound after surgery. Wound infections are infection in the skin after surgery.
				No people died within a month of having surgery. Palliative care means caring for someone who has a terminal illness. Death in a non-palliative setting means an unexpected death of a person who does not have a terminal illness, during their treatment in hospital.