

## **Surgery Risks and Complications**

Below is some important information you should know about undergoing surgery.

Medicine is an inexact science. Although we plan and carry out surgery as carefully as we can, the results can vary in their degree of success. To use a baseball analogy, we try to hit a home run every time we go to bat, and we often do, but sometimes we hit triples, doubles, singles and on rare occasions we can strike out. It is only natural for a patient undergoing orthopedic surgery to want to be reassured that everything will turn out okay. Most of the time it will, but most of the time isn't all of the time, so it is necessary to talk about what can go wrong.

There are really two groups of complications, those associated with any operation and those specifically associated with orthopedic surgery. Fortunately, major complications are relatively rare. In the first category, the main problems are infection, blood clots, medical complications and anesthetic complications. We are aware of these complications and do everything we can to minimize them, like giving antibiotics before, during and after surgery.

The second category of complications, those specifically associated with orthopedic surgery, include nerve dysfunction, permanent numbness and tingling, painful scars, recurrence of the deformity, hardware failure and the complete failure of the operation due to loss of position. One can even come up with more frightening scenarios; loss of toes, gangrene, etc. Any orthopedic specialist is aware of these complications, how to avoid them, and how to treat them if they occur.

You should be aware of the potential risks as well as the potential benefits expected from surgery. We can't make promises, but we can promise you our best effort, because we can deliver that every time we operate. It is very important that you think about all the risks and complications and ask questions. Be sure you feel that you are doing the right thing at the right time. We are here to help you get better.

Please don't hesitate to contact my office if you have any questions or concerns.