

**Vascular Surgery and Vascular Ultrasound Lab
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Complications of Carotid Endarterectomy (CEA)

- * Bleeding,
- * Hematoma, in need for evacuation,
- * Need for tracheostomy due to displacement of the trachea with stridor and difficulty breathing, talking and/or swallowing,
- * Low risk of infection and wound complications,
- * Salivary leaks, usually it resolves by itself, if not, we might even need to remove the salivary gland.
- * Numbness of the operated area in the neck even the ear lobe, it will improve with time (perhaps months) or the patient might get used to it.
- * Impaired swallowing since the procedure was done with a superficial cervical block and the patient was awake - swallowing thru the trachea might give aspiration pneumonia.
- * Swallowing impairment after surgery – requiring feeding tubes.
- * Nerve injuries with three possible results: tongue deviation to the side of the operation, facial droop or hoarseness of the voice, all of these three things might be temporary or permanent.
- * Dissection of the plaque at a higher level when performing the procedure, unable to be reached surgically with subsequent thrombosis of the vessel and subsequent stroke indicating a need for stents in the carotid arteries after surgery.
- * Peri-operative stroke risk.
- * Myocardial infarction or heart arrhythmias.
- * Death.