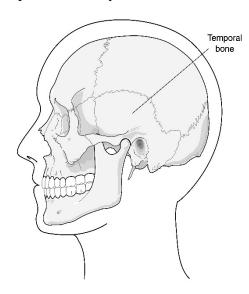
# **Health Facts for You**



# **Temporal Bone Fractures**

You have two temporal bones, one on each side of your head. The temporal bone goes around your ear, in your skull. It protects the part of your brain that controls hearing, speech, memory, and behavior.



## **Temporal Bone Fracture**

A fracture is a broken bone. Breaks in the temporal bone are caused by a hit to the side of the head.

## **Signs and Symptoms**

- Hearing loss
- Nausea and vomiting
- Dizziness
- Leaking of cerebral spinal fluid from your nose or ears
- Facial nerve paralysis
- Bruising

#### **Tests Needed**

- CT scan of your head
- A test to check your hearing
- Facial nerve test

#### **Complications**

- Hearing loss
- Long-term dizziness or balance problems
- Facial nerve damage
- Infection

#### **Treatment**

Treatment and the time you spend in the hospital will depend on your injuries. Some fractures need surgery and some do not. If you have hearing loss, there is a good chance that it improve on its own. If it doesn't, you may need surgery to repair. It could take a month or more to fully heal. It may take 6-8 weeks for the bruising around the temporal nerve to go away.

A repeat hearing test and follow-up with Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) clinic may be required after you have healed.

Who to Call ENT Clinic (608) 263-6190

After hours, nights, weekends and holidays, call UW Hospital Paging at 608-262-0486. Ask for the resident on call for your clinic. Leave your name and phone number with area code. The doctor will call you back.

The toll-free number is (800) 323-8942. Ask for your clinic.

Your health care team may have given you this information as part of your care. If so, please use it and call if you have any questions. If this information was not given to you as part of your care, please check with your doctor. This is not medical advice. This is not to be used for diagnosis or treatment of any medical condition. Because each person's health needs are different, you should talk with your doctor or others on your health care team when using this information. If you have an emergency, please call 911. Copyright © 5/2024. University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority. All rights reserved. Produced by the Department of Nursing. HF#6932.