



Central West Specialists

Ear, Nose & Throat Specialist

FRACTURED NOSE

This is a common injury mostly related to football injury and other contact sports. If the nose is crooked after such injury, then it has been broken, even though the X-ray may not show any clear fracture line.

Noses that have been broken and are out of position can be repositioned up to three or four weeks after the injury. After this time, the bones heal and resetting the fracture site may be difficult.

This procedure is done under a short general anaesthetic. It does not take very long and is not particularly painful. A plaster is applied and it is recommended this be kept on for five to seven days to make sure the nasal bones are not pushed out of place after the injury. Sometimes, the cartilage in the nose is also damaged and this may have to be repaired at the same time. This is called a septoplasty, or repair of the nasal septum, which divides the nasal passages in the middle.

After nasal fractures there may be some new bone formation around the fracture site which may make the nose slightly more prominent particularly from the side view. This can be repaired but usually requires a rhinoplasty, which is a much bigger procedure, and at the same time other problems with the nose may also be addressed. This form of surgery is performed in Sydney.

Sometimes, no matter what is attempted to the nasal bones do not sit exactly as they have in the past. This is probably due to fragments of bone getting stuck in the fracture site and stopping the nose from being fully reduced. If this problem occurs a formal rhinoplasty may again be necessary.

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