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Decadron Perfusion

Decadron perfusion is administered to patients with sudden hearing loss, or symptoms of Meniere's disease or autoimmune process which can include hearing loss, vertigo and/or dizziness.

This procedure involves injecting a high concentration of Decadron, a steroid, into the middle ear space which can decrease inflammation in the inner ear. The eardrum is numbed by touching it with a small sponge saturated with a topical anesthetic. You may experience a burning sensation for a few seconds but the numbness can last up to 4 weeks. A small needle is inserted into the eardrum in which the steroid solution is passed through. Once the steroid perfusion is complete (usually about 10 minutes), antibiotic drops may be placed in the ear to prevent infection. This procedure is typically repeated once a week for 3 weeks.

You may experience slight dizziness which can be brief, but typically feel fine and may easily drive home. Complications or risks of the procedure include pain, infection, bleeding, persistent tympanic membrane perforation, reactions to the medications, and risks associated with steroid use.

The procedure is typically well tolerated and many patients have seen benefit involving return of hearing or decreased and potentially complete resolution of dizziness or vertigo. Although most patients do see a benefit over an extended period of time, the procedure may have to be repeated.