Temporal Bone Fractures

Where is my temporal bone?
You have two temporal bones, one on either side of your head. The temporal bone is the bone located around your ear, in your skull. This bone protects the part of your brain that controls hearing, speech, memory, and behavior.

What is a temporal bone fracture?
It is a break in your temporal bone. You may have had a blow to the head or a piercing object that caused this fracture.

What are the signs and symptoms?
- Hearing loss.
- Nausea and vomiting.
- Dizziness.
- Leaking of cerebral spinal fluid from your nose or ears.
- Facial nerve paralysis.
- Bruising.

What tests will I need?
- CT scan of your head.
- A test to check your hearing.
- Facial nerve test.

How is it treated?
Treatment will depend on your injuries. Some fractures require surgery while others do not. If you are having some hearing loss, there is a good chance that it will go away on its own, and you will recover fully. If you keep having problems, you may need surgery to repair the structures within your ear.

What are some of the complications?
- Hearing loss.
- Long-term dizziness or balance problems.
- Facial nerve damage.
- Infection.

How long will treatment last?
It may take a month or more to recover fully from your fracture. The length of time you will spend in the hospital will depend on your injuries. It may take 6-8 weeks for blood to be reabsorbed around the temporal nerve. You may have a trouble with your hearing that whole time. You then may have a repeat hearing test and will follow-up with ENT.
Phone Numbers

Patients of the ENT (Ears, Nose and Throat) Clinic (608)263-6190 with questions.

After hours, nights, weekends and holidays, this will give you the paging operator. Ask for the resident on call for your clinic. Leave your name and phone number with area code. The doctor will call you back.

If you live out of the area, call 1-800-323-8942 and ask for your clinic.