

# THE DEVIATED SEPTUM GOING STRAIGHT!

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Once upon a time there was a deviated septum. The septum was definitely crooked, and this was very upsetting to the good nose who had protected and cared for the septum. The nose complained that all the good air that should have been his friend just kept passing him by. The nose wondered why the septum kept giving him so much trouble.

After many years the nose just couldn't take it any longer. It was fed up from missing out on good breathing. It said to the septum, "I just don't understand. I've always been straight. People look at me and say that I look fine. But I just can't get enough air, and I know it's your fault! Even my sinuses are a mess, and you're giving me a headache!" The septum agreed, "You're right, but it's just my nature. Without your help, I'll never change."

They agreed to see a surgeon who specialized in problems of the nose. The specialist examined the nose and immediately proclaimed, "You have the potential to be a great nose, but your septum is a mess, and he's bringing you down with him. If we can straighten him out, you will be a great team, and even your sinuses will appreciate the septum going straight. You'll have fewer headaches!"

The surgeon explained that the septum was like a wall that went down the middle of the inside of the nose – separating the left and right side of the inside of the nose. Ideally the septum is straight. But in this case the septum was deformed – warped – taking up too much room inside the nose and blocking the free flow of air. "You're obstructing my air," said the nose. "Even my throat is dry because air going through the mouth doesn't get the warmth and humidity that I can provide."

The septum wondered. "How did this happen? I never meant to take up so much room and rob the nose of air. Was I born this way?" The surgeon explained that sometimes the septum is injured at birth, and sometimes injuries develop in childhood or later. "Sometimes just too much cartilage grows and there isn't enough space in the nose to accommodate. Then the septum becomes warped--taking up too much space."

"Warped...deviated...stealing space..." It was too much for the septum. He told the surgeon, "I want to go straight and I know only you can help me out." The nose reported to the hospital early one morning. The nose went to sleep and the surgeon removed the deformed cartilage (gristle) from the septum. After waking up, the nose was surprised, "I can breathe great! But I can't see any difference. There is no black and blue or swelling in my face or in my eyes. I don't have a cast. And I don't even have any packing inside me." The surgeon explained. "That's because your only problem was your septum. We didn't operate on any other part of you. You'll have a

little bloody drainage for a day, and some stuffiness for a couple of weeks. Otherwise, you're as good as new. And the operation is permanent; the cartilage can never grow back again."

The septum felt great. He proclaimed himself "straight as an arrow." The nose had never felt as good before. He could get all the air he needed. When all the noses were asked to volunteer for the movies, he was the first to shout, "Pick me!"