

PAROTIDECTOMY PATIENT INSTRUCTIONS

1. Your surgeon will be removing all or a portion of the parotid gland, which is one of the saliva glands that you have. Surgery will last approximately 3 to 5 hours and you will most likely stay in the hospital overnight.
2. You will have a rubber drain coming out of the incision to prevent fluid from building up. It will be removed prior to going home.
3. Your incision will be closed with sutures. If there are no butterfly strips, clean the incision with hydrogen peroxide and apply antibiotic ointment twice a day as directed by your surgeon. Keep the incision dry for 48 hours; then you may get it wet. Let the water run over the incision and pat it dry.
4. No strenuous activity or heavy lifting for 1 week after surgery. At your follow up visit, you will be instructed to gradually increase your activity. Do not be surprised if you are fatigued for several weeks after surgery.
5. Your earlobe will be numb after surgery and the ear canal may be swollen causing decreased hearing. The numbness will most likely not completely resolve, but the swelling and reduced hearing will return to normal.
6. Take the pain medications and antibiotics as directed by your surgeon.
7. You may have an *Alloderm* graft placed under the skin to improve the cosmetic appearance of your surgery. This is will be discussed more by your surgeon.

COMPLICATIONS:

- Fever or infection is uncommon. Notify your surgeon if you have a temperature above 101.5°F
- It is possible for fluid or saliva to buildup under the incision. Notify your surgeon if you notice swelling, redness or increased pain.
- Damage to the nerve that moves the face (Facial Nerve) is uncommon during surgery and is usually temporary. The nerve branch that moves the corner of the mouth is the one most affected. If this occurs, it can take several months to completely return to normal. In rare cases, it may not completely return.
- Some patients notice sweating over the area of surgery when eating. This is called Frey's syndrome and is usually mild. If it is bothersome, it can be treated with antiperspirant.