



Salivary Gland Surgery

July 7

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- Parotidectomy

After salivary gland surgery

This is a guide to help you with your care at home.

Your surgery is called Parotidectomy. The parotid glands are large salivary glands that are located on the side of the face, just in front of and below the ears. The parotid duct carries saliva from the parotid gland to the mouth. Saliva helps us break down our food making swallowing easier.

Medication

- Take medication as prescribed by your doctor. You may be provided antibiotics to prevent infection. If you prescribed an antibiotic, please complete the entire course.
- Do not drink alcohol while taking pain pills.

Immediately After Surgery

- You will have an incision on the affected side of your neck. It will be in front of the ear and down the side of the neck.
- A drain may be placed in your neck. This is to remove any old blood from under the incision. This drain is usually taken out the morning after your surgery, but could remain for a few days.
- You will have some swelling and possible bruising on the affected side. This will go away gradually.
- You may have some facial weakness on the affected side. This is usually temporary. This is what the nurse is looking for when she checks your facial movements.
- There will be numbness around the incision and near your ear. This could be temporary or permanent depending on whether the surgeon could save the nerve during surgery.
- You may have pain medication. Please ask your nurse for this medication if you are uncomfortable or sick to your stomach.
- If the doctor has ordered an intravenous medication, the intravenous will be removed once you are drinking well and not sick to your stomach.
- You are able to be up and around as soon as the drowsiness wears off.
- You will either have antibiotic ointment over the wound or a full-face wrap ("facelift"-style dressing) to keep pressure on your face for 24-48 hours. The face wrap can be removed at home by cutting carefully or slipping it forward.

At Home

Safety

- You must have a responsible adult drive you home and stay with you for 24 hours.

Controlling Discomfort

- Your doctor will give you a prescription for pain pills before you leave the hospital.
- You can also take extra strength acetaminophen (Tylenol). Do not take Aspirin or Advil.

Meals

- You have no dietary restrictions immediately after surgery. This may change if you have too much saliva leakage from your incision.

Activity

- **Do not do any heavy lifting or straining.** Do not lift anything over 5 pounds for 3 weeks. This includes children.
- Increase your activities each day. Rest when you feel tired.
- Walk as much as you can.
- Resume sexual activity when you feel well enough.
- Do not resume driving until you can move your head with ease.
- Normal return to work is about 7 days.

Care of Your Incision

- You will be taught how to care for your incision before you go home. You will need to purchase: Hydrogen peroxide, Q-tips, antibiotic ointment (Bacitracin or Polysporin ointment is preferred), and Vaseline. V-STAT Advanced Scar Gel is optional and is available for purchase at Dr. Taylor and Dr. Kujath's office.
- You will have stitches or surgical OR staples. They are usually removed 7-10 days after your operation if they do not dissolve on their own.
- Using Q-tip, cleanse the site with hydrogen peroxide in a rolling motion to remove any crusting. This can be started 1-2 days after the procedure. Cleanse the site twice a day to promote healing and minimize the final incision line. Apply the antibiotic ointment after each cleansing. Use antibiotic ointment for 5 days maximum then change to Vaseline or V-STAT Scar Gel. Prolonged use of Polysporin can lead to problematic wound healing.

- Personal hygiene may be resumed 24 hours after surgery. Do not allow the shower spray to fall directly onto the incision line until 48 hours post-operatively. Blot dry - do not rub the towel over the stitches.
- You may have drainage from behind the ear. If so, wear a dry dressing until you see your doctor.
- If you have trouble closing your eye due to facial weakness, you need to put a piece of tape or a Band-Aid over your eyelid when you go to sleep. This protects your eye so you do not accidentally scratch it in your sleep. This is called a “corneal abrasion” and is very painful.

Follow-up Care

- You will be given an appointment to see your surgeon in 7-10 days. Keep all your appointments.
- Call your surgeon’s office if you have:
 - any increase in swelling
 - fever
 - increasing pain
 - foul smelling or discolored drainage from your incision
 - bleeding that does not stop with light pressure or soaks through your dressing
- If your doctor is not available, go to an Emergency Department.

Salivary Glands and Ducts

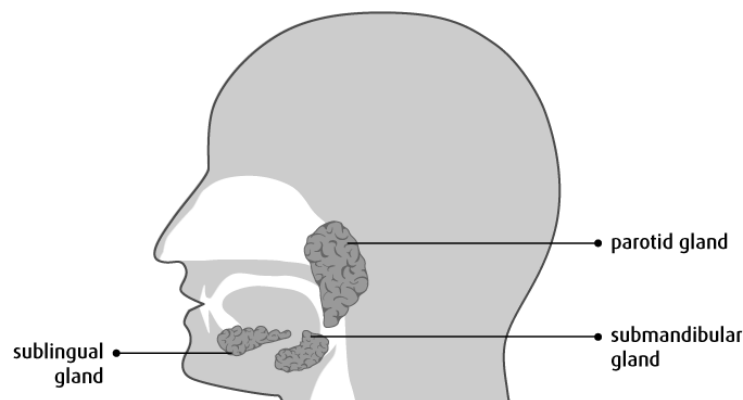


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