

POSTOPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS FOR PAROTIDECTOMY



Parotidectomy is performed under general anesthesia. Surgery typically lasts 2-3 hours. You will be admitted to the hospital and will usually spend one night before being discharged home the following day. You will have a drain tube coming out from the skin behind your incision into a collection bulb. The drain will be removed 1-3 days after surgery. Some patient's will have the drain removed prior to going home, while others will go home with the drain. This depends on the amount of fluid collecting in the drain. If you have stitches, these will usually be removed 7-10 days after surgery in our office.

Postoperative medications: Take all of your home medications except for blood thinners or aspirin. You will receive a prescription for pain medication to use if necessary. You may use either the prescription medication or plain tylenol. Do not use the prescription medication and tylenol together, as that may be too much acetaminophen. Do not take ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin) or naproxen (Aleve) for one week after surgery, as it may increase your risk of bleeding.

Diet: There are no dietary restrictions after parotid surgery.

Activity: Do not engage in any strenuous activity for 2 weeks after surgery. You may be more comfortable if you sleep with several pillows or your head of bed elevated for several days. Do not drive while taking prescription pain medications.

Things to expect: The skin of the neck, face, and ear near your incision will feel numb for a while. Sensation usually improves gradually over the course of several weeks. You may have some discomfort when taking your first bite of food or when chewing. This usually improves after several weeks.

When to call:

1. Fever greater than 102 F
2. Increasing swelling, redness, discoloration, or tenderness at the surgical site
3. Drainage from the incision
4. Pain not controlled by your pain medications