

wound clean and dry until after the stitches are removed.

- There may be some bruising which fades in time.
- Any swelling of the surrounding tissue should reduce within a week. You can bath, shower or shampoo normally after your stitches are removed.
- You will need 2 weeks off work. A certificate will be given to you on leaving the ward. If you need further time you will need to see your General Practitioner.
- It is important not to drive for 48 hours, may be more, depending on your neck mobility.
- You may feel tired for some time, so do not exert yourself or do anything too strenuous for a week or two.
- You will be sent an appointment to see your surgeon in the outpatients department.

All information in this leaflet has been verified for use by our Consultant Surgeons in this speciality.

For further information please ask a member of staff or see www.entuk.org

References

If you require a full list of references for this leaflet please email patient.information@ulh.nhs.uk

The Trust endeavours to ensure that the information given here is accurate and impartial.



If you require this information in another language, large print, audio (CD or tape) or braille please email the Patient Information team at patient.information@ulh.nhs.uk

Parotidectomy

Ear, Nose and Throat Department

Clinic 6, Lincoln County Hospital (01522) 573255
Clinic 9, Maxillo-facial Clinic (01522) 573495/572494
Clayton Ward (01522) 573130/573778
Surgical Admissions Unit (01522) 573089

www.ulh.nhs.uk

Aim of the leaflet

This leaflet is aimed at patients undergoing the removal of the parotid gland (salivary gland). It aims to explain the procedure and what to expect afterwards.

What is a Parotidectomy?

This is an operation to take all or part of the parotid (salivary gland) in your neck.

What are the risks involved in surgery?

- Nerve damage causing facial weakness/palsy
- A numb ear lobe
- Bleeding and haematoma formation
- Wound infection
- Cosmetic (reduced fullness in face)
- Freys syndrome (skin sweats on eating)

What happens before the operation?

Usually this operation requires an overnight stay.

You may be asked to attend a pre-assessment clinic. Your medical history will be noted and the operation explained. You will be asked to sign your consent form. Ensure you understand your operation before signing.

Any necessary tests will be carried out e.g. blood tests, x-rays, ECG (tracing of your heart).

The medication you currently take will be discussed with you and advice given as required.

Please bring with you any medication you are currently taking when you attend the pre-op assessment clinic.

You will receive information about when to stop eating and drinking before your operation.

You will usually be seen by the anaesthetist on the ward.

What happens during the operation?

You will be given a general anaesthetic and will be asleep during the operation.

An incision (cut) is made down the skin crease below your ear lobe, down the side of your neck. Part or all of the parotid gland is removed. A small drain (plastic tube) is placed into the wound. This prevents excess blood collecting under the skin and a haematoma forming. The wound is closed using sutures (stitches) or clips.

What should I expect after my operation?

- There is usually discomfort on moving rather than severe pain. You will be given pain relief during your operation. If you have any discomfort tell the nurse looking after you. You will be given an injection/tablets to control this.
- You may feel sick, but not necessarily. An anti-sickness medicine will be given to you. You should be able to eat and drink normally within 4 to 6 hours.
- After a general anaesthetic you may feel slow, clumsy and forgetful for 24 hours. It is important that you have someone to look after you and that you do not make any important decisions.
- If you have a drain, you will be asked to sit upright in bed. The drain will be removed when the drainage of fluid stops, usually 24 to 48 hours after the operation.
- Sutures/clips are removed by your practice nurse approximately 5 to 7 days after your operation.
- There may be a dressing over your wound. This will be removed before you go home. You will need to keep the