

long as you don't feel sick and you are able to eat about 3-4 hours after the operation.

- Your temperature, pulse and blood pressure will be monitored at regular intervals.
- You will be able to get up and walk about after the operation when the anaesthetic has worn off and as you feel able.
- You will need to keep the wound clean and dry after the operation, taking care showering/washing and shaving.
- Most people stay in hospital for 24-48 hours and are therefore discharged home the following day.
- You will need to take 2-3 weeks off work following the operation and are advised not to over extend your neck. You will be given a sick certificate on the ward before discharge home.
- You will be given a follow up appointment to see the surgeon in clinic some weeks after the surgery.
- You will be advised to see your practice nurse some 7 days after your operation for removal of your stitches and to review your wound. Scars usually fade within 2 years.

All information has been verified for use by our Consultant Surgeons. **For further information** contact 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 other languages, large print, audio (CD or tape) or Braille please email the Public Information Team patient.information@ulh.nhs.uk



United Lincolnshire Hospitals 
NHS Trust

Removal of Sub-Mandibular Gland

Ear, Nose and Throat Department
Clinic 6, Lincoln County Hospital (01522) 573255
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 sub mandibular gland. It aims to explain the procedure and what to expect afterwards.

What is the sub mandibular gland?

The submandibular gland is a salivary gland which is about the size of a plum and lies just below the lower jaw. There is one situated on the right and the left side. Saliva drains from it through a tube that opens up into the mouth under the tongue.

Why is it removed?

The gland needs removing surgically for several reasons,

- There is a stone in the gland and the duct becomes blocked due to infection
- There is a benign tumour (lump)
- For biopsy of the lump when needle biopsy has been inconclusive.

Are there any risks involved?

- Bleeding from the wound can occur, usually in the first 12 hours after the operation. You will usually need to stay in hospital over night.
- The surgeon will insert a drain at the time of surgery to remove any excess fluid from around the operation site, this will prevent swelling and therefore any pressure on surrounding nerves.
- Sometimes there is damage to a branch of the facial nerve during the procedure or due to swelling afterwards. This causes weakness to the lower lip and is usually temporary, but can be permanent. This is a rare complication.
- There may be damage to the lingual nerve supplying the tongue. This causes numbness in the tongue, but is usually only temporary. This is very rare.
- Infection can sometimes occur after any operation, if there is a risk of this the surgeon will give you antibiotic treatment.

What does the operation involve?

The submandibular gland is removed under a general anaesthetic, which means you will be asleep throughout the procedure. The operation involves a cut around 2 inches long (5cm) in the upper part of the neck just below the jaw line. Once the gland has been removed the incision (cut) is held together with stitches. These will need to be removed about one week after surgery. A small tube is placed through the skin attached to a drain to remove any excess blood and fluid which may collect. The operation usually takes approximately 45 minutes.

What happens before the operation?

You will be assessed by a nurse in clinic before the operation and asked various questions regarding your health status. The operation will be explained and you will be asked to sign a consent form. Please ensure that you understand your operation before signing. Any necessary tests will be carried out i.e. blood tests, x-rays, E.C.G. (recording the activity of your heart.).

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

You will receive information on when to stop eating and drinking before the operation.

You will usually be seen by the anaesthetist on the ward the day of your operation.

What should I expect after the operation?

- You will return to the ward after approximately 1 hour.
- You will probably still feel sleepy following the anaesthetic and will therefore need to sleep or rest for a time.
- You will have been given pain relief during the anaesthetic, which may wear off after about 4 hours. If you feel pain or discomfort, please ask the nurse who is looking after you. You will need to take regular pain relief for a few days.
- You will have come back to the ward with a small drain (as mentioned before). This is usually removed the morning after the surgery if the drainage is minimal.
- You will be able to drink water soon after the operation so