Parotidectomy
Parotidectomy

A parotidectomy is surgery to remove your parotid gland(s).

The parotid glands are large salivary glands. They are on the side of your face, just in front of and below your ears. The parotid ducts carry saliva from your parotid glands to your mouth. Saliva helps you break down your food, which makes swallowing easier.
Immediately after surgery

- You will have an incision (cut) on the affected side of your neck. It will be in front of your ear and down the side of your neck.
- A drain may be placed in your neck. This will remove any old blood from under the incision. The drain is usually taken out 24-48 hours after surgery.
- You may have swelling and bruising on the affected side. This will go away over time.
- You may have facial weakness on the affected side. This is usually temporary. The nurse will look for facial weakness when they check your facial movements.
- You may have numbness around the incision and near your ear.
- You may be given pain medication. If you are uncomfortable, ask your nurse for medication.
- If you feel sick to your stomach, ask your nurse for medication to help.
- If the doctor has not ordered medication by intravenous (IV), your IV will be removed when you are drinking well and do not feel sick to your stomach.
- You can be up and moving around the unit as soon as the drowsiness wears off. Ring for the nurse to help you get up the first few times.
At home

Safety
• You must have someone take you home and stay with you for the day of the surgery.
• Do not drive until you can move your head easily.

Controlling discomfort
• Your doctor will give you a prescription for pain pills before you leave the hospital.
• Do not drink alcohol or drive a car while taking pain pills.

Meals
• Eating healthy food will help your incision heal.
• Follow any special diet that you are given by your dietitian.
Activity

• Do not strain or lift anything heavy. Do not lift anything over 5 pounds for 2 weeks. This includes children.
• Increase your activities each day. Rest when you are tired.
• Walk as much as you can.
• Go back to sexual activity (sex) when you feel well enough.
• Do not drive until you can move your head easily.
• Talk with your doctor about when you can go back to work.

Care of your incision

• You will be taught how to care for your incision before you go home.
• You may have drainage from your incision. Wear a dry dressing if needed until you see your doctor.
• You will have stitches. They are usually removed 7-10 days after your surgery if they do not dissolve on their own.
Followup care

• You will be given an appointment to see your surgeon. Keep all appointments.

• Call your surgeon or your family health care provider if you have:
  › any increase in swelling
  › fever
  › any increase in pain
  › facial weakness that was not present at time of discharge
  › more drainage from the incision

If you cannot reach your family health care provider, go to the nearest Emergency Department.

What are your questions?
Please ask. We are here to help you.