

Parotidectomy

Disclaimer: *The following information should not be considered medical advice or a substitute for a consultation with a physician. If you have a medical problem, contact your physician for diagnosis and treatment.*

General Anesthetic: After a general anesthetic, you may experience some weakness, dizziness, and sleepiness. A responsible adult must stay with you for 24 hours because of the effects of the anesthesia. Adults should not drive a car, operate dangerous machinery, or make important or legal decisions for 24 hours after anesthesia or while taking pain medications.

What to expect: If you go home with a drain bloody drainage in the drain is normal and will decrease. Pain in the face and/or numbness of the lower half of the ear is normal after the operation. These symptoms will usually resolve over the two-week period after the surgery. Swelling in the surgical area is normal, and will reduce within the first four weeks.

Diet: Start with clear liquids, you may resume your previous diet when you no longer feel nausea.

Hydration: This is very important during the recovery period and will help the healing process. Avoid alcoholic beverages with cause dehydration and thickening of mucous.

Fever: It is not uncommon to run a low-grade fever, which can be expected after surgery. A fever below 101.5 degrees often clears and should not cause concern. This is probably the results of mild dehydration and the healing process. Please call us for elevated or persistent fever ($>101.5^{\circ}$ for 2 days).

Medications: Take all the antibiotics prescribed by your physician. Discomfort is usually relieved by a prescription pain medication or Tylenol. If a stronger pain reliever is prescribed, follow the directions carefully. **Do not take aspirin or products containing non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medications (i.e. ibuprofen).** These “thin the blood” and slow blood clotting.

Special Instructions: You may spend the night in the hospital. Your provider may remove any drains the day following surgery. Apply a thin layer of one of the following ointments to the incision site twice a day: Neosporin, Bacitracin or Polysporin. Keep your head raised 30 degrees at bedtime for 48 hours after surgery.

Activities: Avoid strenuous exercise or lifting over 5 lbs. for two weeks. You may return to work or school seven days after surgery, or as instructed by your physician.

Follow-up: The post operative appointment will be with your physician one week after surgery. If you are not admitted to the

hospital after the surgery, you may need to come into the office for drain removal. Please call 206-215-1770 to schedule your post-op appointment immediately if it has not been scheduled yet.

Contact the office if you experience

1. Excessive bleeding, swelling over the incision.
2. Persistent severe pain not relieved by medication.
3. Elevated or persistent fever ($>101^{\circ}$ for 2 days). Fever for 2 days after surgery is normal.
4. Vomiting after stopping prescription pain medications, or reaction to the post op medications.



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