After Your Surgery

Parotidectomy

CAPITAL ENT & SINUS CENTER

What to Expect

- Pain and soreness around the incision and along the side of your face and neck.
- Mild oozing from around the incision.
- You will go home with a drain, which is removed at your first post-operative visit. Before discharge, the nurse will teach you how to empty the drain and record the output.
- You may have weakness of all or part of your face on the side of surgery. This almost always improves with time, but may take several weeks to months.
- Numbness around the earlobe. This usually improves with time, but some degree of permanent numbness can occur.

What to Do

- Remove the head wrap dressing 24 hours after surgery.
- You may shower 24 hours after surgery. Let warm, soapy water run over the wound.
- Keep your head elevated while sleeping for 72 hours. Sleep with an extra pillow or two.
- If your eye does not close fully: artificial tears every 1 to 2 hours while awake, a lubricating ointment at bedtime, and tape the eyelid gently closed or wear a moisture shield at night.
- Tylenol 1,000 mg every 6 hours (max 4,000 mg a day; 3,000 mg if the package says so or with liver disease) and ibuprofen 400 mg every 8 hours with food, unless your surgeon said not to or you have an ulcer or kidney disease.
- If narcotic pain medication was prescribed, use it for breakthrough pain.
- Empty the surgical drain and record the output 3 times a day (morning, afternoon and bedtime).

What Not to Do

- For 24 hours after anesthesia: no driving, alcohol or important decisions; after general anesthesia, we recommend an adult stay with you the first night.
- No baths, pools, hot tubs or lakes for 2 weeks, or until your surgeon says the incision has healed. Do not scrub the wound while showering.
- No heavy lifting (over about 10 lb) or strenuous activity (anything that makes you breathe hard, strain or sweat) for 2 weeks.
- For 1 week, stay within an hour of our office or an ER, and do not fly.
- No smoking or vaping until your surgeon confirms you have healed.

When to Call or See the Doctor

- Rapidly increasing swelling in the neck, or any difficulty breathing: call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room.
- Temperature of 101° F+ for over 24 hours or starting 3+ days after surgery, or 102° F+ at any time (check before the next Tylenol or ibuprofen dose).
- Worsening, severe pain.
- Persistent drainage from the wound, or worsening redness around the wound.
- The drain fills with bright red blood, the amount suddenly goes up, the bulb will not stay squeezed flat, or the drain falls out.

Questions or concerns? Call the office that scheduled your surgery. After hours, call our main number, 512-339-4040, to reach the on-call physician. For a life-threatening emergency, call 911.

Austin 512-339-4040 **Lakeway** 512-682-4798 **Marble Falls** 830-992-2830

Dripping Springs 512-339-4040

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