

After Your Surgery: Parotidectomy



What to Expect

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

What to Do

- Remove the head wrap dressing 24 hours after the surgery.
- Ok to shower 24 hours after surgery. Can let warm, soapy water run over wound.
- Keep your head elevated while sleeping for 72 hours. Sleep with an extra pillow or two.
- Pain can typically be controlled with over-the-counter Tylenol and ibuprofen or Aleve. You can take these per instructions on the bottle.
- If prescribed narcotic pain medication, can use this for breakthrough pain.
- Empty the contents of the surgical drain and record drain output every 8 hours.

What Not to Do

- Do not submerge wound in water. Do not scrub wound while showering.
- No heavy lifting or intense exercise for 2 weeks.
- No flying or travel until 1 week after the procedure.

When to Call or See the Doctor

- Persistent fever over 101° F.
- Worsening, severe pain.
- Persistent drainage from the wound or worsening redness around the wound.

Follow Up

- Follow up as instructed, usually 1-2 days after surgery.
- The drain will usually be removed at your first post-op visit.