

Submandibular Gland Excision

What to Expect

- Pain and soreness around the incision below the jawline. Most patients go home the day of surgery.
- Mild oozing from around the incision.
- If a drain was placed, it usually stays for 1 to 2 days to prevent fluid collection. Before discharge, the nurse will teach you how to empty the drain and record the output.
- You may notice weakness of the lower lip or numbness of the tongue on the side of surgery. This is usually temporary and improves with time.
- Plan to take about one week off of work or school, depending on your recovery.

What to Do

- 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.
- Pain can typically be controlled with over-the-counter Tylenol and ibuprofen or Aleve, taken per the instructions on the bottle.
- If narcotic pain medication was prescribed, use it for breakthrough pain.
- If a drain was placed, empty it and record the output every 8 hours.

What Not to Do

- Do not submerge the wound in water. Do not scrub the wound while showering.
- No heavy lifting or strenuous activity 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.
- Significant swelling under the jawline or in the neck.

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