

Parotid surgery

After the Surgery

When you wake up after your operation, you will have a drip in your arm and a small drain tube coming out from the side of your neck. The wound is not usually very sore and in fact is usually quite numb. You should be able to eat & drink within 4 hours of your operation and get out of bed either later that day or the next day. Normally you will stay in hospital 1 or 2 nights until the drain is ready to be removed.

At Home

The wound is usually dressed with a water-proof dressing, though it is good to try and keep the area dry for 3-4 days after the operation. The wound dressings can be peeled off after 7 days if you have not yet seen the surgeon. Stitches are usually dissolvable. There may be a small amount of blood discharge from where the drain was removed. A large portion of the face and ear on this side will feel numb. This numbness will gradually resolve over months, but the lower portion of the ear or earlobe may sometimes be permanently numb.

In the weeks after the operation there may be intermittent discharge of clear fluid from the wound (saliva). This will usually resolve spontaneously.

You should avoid heavy lifting or strenuous exercise for 2 weeks.

Medications

You will have been prescribed some analgesic medications and sometimes some antibiotics. Please take all medications as prescribed. It is **best to avoid aspirin** or blood thinning medications unless permitted by your surgeon.

When to contact your surgeon

- If you develop obvious swelling of the side of your face
- If you develop a high fever, increased pain or pus leaks from your wound.

Follow up appointments

You will normally have a post-operative appointment approximately 1 to 2 weeks after surgery.

Any pathology results will also be discussed at this first post operative visit.

We generally book these appointments BEFORE your operation and should be included with your pre-operative paperwork. If you are uncertain as to the time of your appointment, please contact our office.