

Wentworth Health Partners Head & Neck Specialty Group of NH

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PAROTIDECTOMY

You have had a parotidectomy. The parotid gland is a gland that makes saliva, or spit. It is located in front of the ear. Removal of the parotid gland is called a parotidectomy. Surgery is lengthy, usually around 3-6 hours long.

Most parotidectomy patients can expect to have a temporary Penrose drain in their neck along with a bulky dressing when they go home. You should expect to be out of work for approximately 2 weeks.

When you go home, follow these instructions:

- Take care of your incision and dressing site as instructed by the nurse
- Take all medications as prescribed by your doctor to help with the pain
- Eat a bland diet without lemon or foods that will cause you to salivate
- Keep the head of the bed elevated to rest and sleep, until told otherwise
- Do not wash your hair and keep the area dry until the doctor says it is okay.
Usually this is after the stitches and dressing have been removed

At the first postop visit the dressing is changed and the sutures are examined. This usually occurs the day after surgery.

On the 2nd postop day the drain is removed and the sutures examined. A new dressing is usually applied.

5-7 days postop the sutures are removed.

After a parotidectomy, you may have facial weakness/numbness on the surgical side. Do not be alarmed by this, as it is normal at first. This usually gets better after 3-6 months.

Call your doctor if:

- You have a fever higher than 101 degrees. If you have a low-grade fever, lower than 101 degrees, please take Tylenol.
- Your incision is swollen, hot, or red
- Your incision is draining pus or has drainage that smells
- Your incision is not healing or comes apart
- Your incision is bleeding
- You have any questions or concerns