

Salivary Gland Surgery

Post-procedure Instructions

Special Instructions

- If a drain was placed during surgery, it will typically be removed in 1-4 days. This is usually done in the office.
- Do not drive while taking narcotic pain medications.

Medication

- Use prescribed narcotic pain medication as directed. You may supplement with Motrin® as needed.
- Antibiotics are not typically prescribed unless deemed necessary by your surgeon.
- If you were previously taking aspirin or other blood-thinning agents, you may restart these 3 days after the procedure unless instructed differently by your doctor.

Activity

- Light activity until follow up visit. Do not lift more than 30 pounds during this time, but you may do some limited aerobic exercise as tolerated.
- You may shower 48 hours after surgery. If a drain was placed, you may shower 48 hours after the drain is removed.
- Most patients return to work within 1 week of surgery.

Diet

- No restrictions.

Postoperative Follow-up Appointment

- Usually 1 week after the procedure. Call 636.441.3100 should you need to reschedule or confirm.

What to Expect

- You may have mild pain or even some numbness around the incision.
- Discomfort will gradually improve over the first few days and should respond to pain medication. Use ice packs over the wound as necessary.
- Parotid surgery typically results in permanent numbness of the earlobe or temporary sensation of ear fullness.
- 20% of patients who undergo parotid surgery develop some moisture in the skin overlying the gland during meals. This is known as Frey syndrome and rarely causes any significant problems.

When to Call

- Call the office at 636.441.3100 during routine hours for questions, concerns or medication refill requests. Please remember that pain medications will only be refilled during regular office hours.
- After-hours and weekend calls should be limited to urgent and emergent issues such as the following:
 - Excessive bleeding, or development of discolored wound drainage
 - Adverse reactions to prescribed medications, such as rash or vomiting
 - Fever >101.4° that does not respond to Tylenol® or Motrin®
 - Progressive weakness in facial movement.
- Should you choose or be instructed to go the ER for any reason, we ask that you go to either St. Joseph Hospital-Lake St. Louis or Barnes-Jewish St. Peters Hospital.