

Risks

- **Pain**, bleeding, swelling and leakage from the wound. Advice will be provided before you go home.
- **Infection**. Sometimes a lump can form in the gland and can cause repeated infections.
- **Numb or tingling** ear lobe. This can happen when the nerve is removed to gain access to the gland.
- Nerve **damage**. This is usually temporary and can happen from bruising causing weakness of the muscles to one side of your face. It takes a few months to recover fully.
- Excessive **ear sweating** can happen after the parotid gland is removed. It is noticeable around mealtimes when the skin can turn red and feel warm. Simple treatments help and no further surgery is required.

Contact Details

Oral and Maxillofacial Department County Hospital

Nurse's Office Tel: 01785 230577
Monday to Friday 9.00 am to 4.00 pm

Royal Stoke Hospital

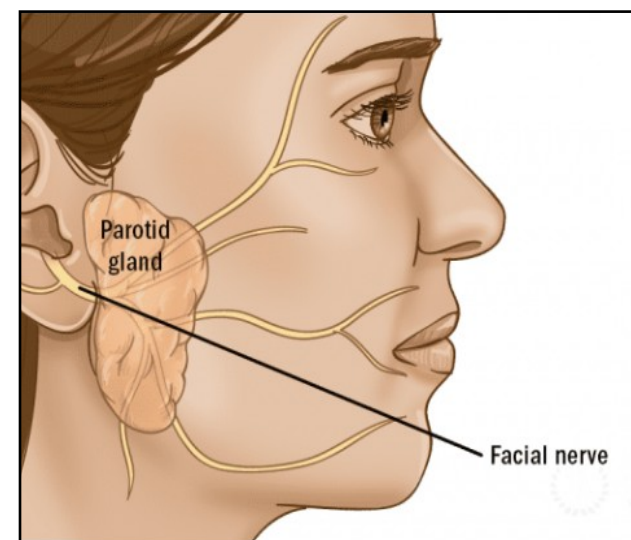
Nurse Base Tel: 01782 674801
Medical Secretary Tel: switchboard 01782 715444

Consultants

Mr R Burnham / Mr D Gahir / Mr D Hammond
Mr C Pearce / Mr S Thomas

Patient Information Leaflet

Parotidectomy



Please speak to a member of staff if you need this leaflet in large print, braille, audio or another language

Introduction

Your consultant has suggested a parotidectomy and this leaflet provide information about the procedure, risks and benefits. If after reading the leaflet you have any questions, please speak to a member of the team.

What is a Parotidectomy?

Parotidectomy is the partial or complete removal of the parotid gland.

The Parotid Gland (known as the Spit Gland), is a salivary gland that lies either side of your face immediately in front of the ear.

Saliva drains from it through a tube that opens on the inside of the cheek next to the upper back teeth.

Preparing for the procedure

- Please inform your consultant or let one of the team know if you are taking blood thinning medication, such as Apixaban, Warfarin.
- Please also tell them if you are taking herbal remedies or over the counter medication.
- This is a routine procedure carried out under a general anaesthetic.
- A local anaesthetic may also be given to numb the area whilst you are asleep to help with any pain afterwards.
- The procedure takes up to 3 hours. Most patients only stay only one night in hospital.

The procedure

- A consent form will be given to you to sign and you will have the opportunity to ask any questions.

- A cut will be made immediately in front of the ear . This will extend downwards into the neck behind the ear.
- Some of the skin will be lifted away to locate the gland and facial nerve.
- The gland/lump will be removed holding the incision together with clips or stitches (sutures). These will be removed about 1 week after surgery.
- At the end of the surgery, a small tube is placed through the skin into the underlying wound to drain any blood/fluids. This is removed the next day.

After the operation

There may be some swelling after the removal of the gland. You may be left with a scar however this will fade over time and is difficult to see when fully healed.

Going home

- You must keep the wound dry for 1 week after surgery. Please take care when shaving or washing.
- Do not do any strenuous activity such as lifting heavy weights etc.
- You will need to take at least 1 week off work.

Follow up

A follow up appointment will be made to have your stitches removed 7-10 days after your operation.

A second follow up appointment is made with your consultant for 4-6 weeks to discuss your results and see how you are doing.