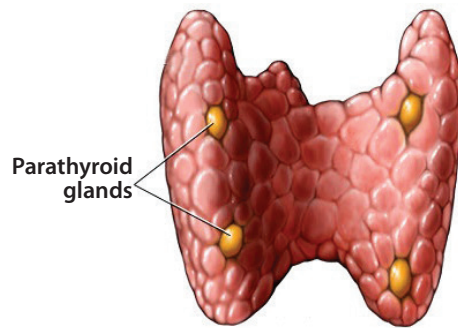


Parathyroidectomy



Thyroid Gland (back view)

Your parathyroid glands are 4 small glands that lie directly behind the thyroid. These play a major role in the calcium uptake and deposit in our blood and bones. One or more parathyroid glands may need to be removed for a variety of reasons. The most common reasons include elevated parathyroid levels (hyperparathyroidism), or growths of the parathyroid. These growths can be benign or cancerous.

You will have an incision on the lower portion of your neck

You will most likely have at least 1 drain in place and may go home with this drain remaining. Drain care will be reviewed prior to leaving the hospital.

What to expect after surgery:

- Keep the incision dry
- Do not cover the incision unless instructed
- Steri-strips should be kept dry and removed if they have not fallen off in 1 week (if present)

Please report any of the following as they may indicate a low calcium blood level:

- Numbness in the arms or legs
- Muscle cramps/spasms/twitches
- Increased irritability

Do not drive a car until you can move your neck from side to side without pain or discomfort

Do not lift anything over 15 pounds for 2 weeks.

You may gradually resume normal activity

If any of the following occur, please call the ENT clinic:

- Increase in wound redness, swelling drainage or pain
- Separation of the suture line
- Fever greater than 101°

