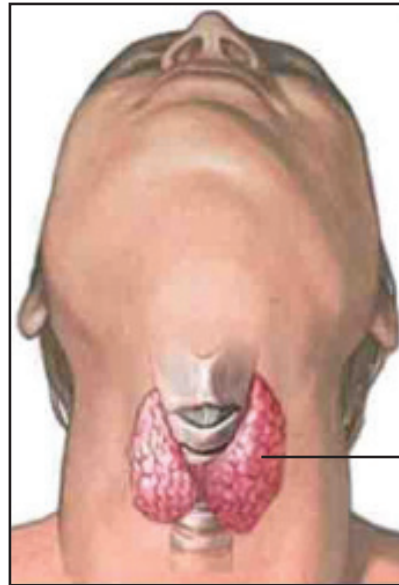


Thyroidectomy



Thyroid Gland

Your thyroid is composed of two lobes and a middle portion (isthmus). One of the lobes or both may be removed for a variety of reasons. The most common being a nodule, or growth. The growth may be benign or cancerous. The thyroid is a very important gland and plays a role in many of our body's actions. Behind the thyroid are 4 small glands called the parathyroid glands. These play a role in calcium deposit and uptake in our blood and bones. There is always a risk that these small parathyroid glands could be injured during surgery.

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 6 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°



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