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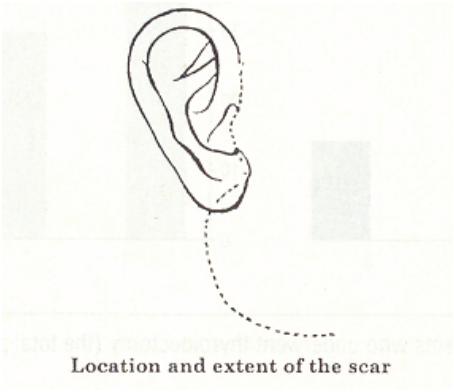
ENTcare

Specializing in the treatment of diseases of the ear, nose, throat and sinus

PAROTIDECTOMY INFORMED CONSENT

Parotidectomy is a surgical operation to remove a large salivary gland (the parotid gland) located in front and just below the ear. The most common reasons for removal of all or part of this gland are a mass in the gland, chronic infection of the gland, or obstruction of the saliva outflow from the gland causing chronic enlargement of the gland.

The nerve that controls motion to the face (the facial nerve) runs through the parotid gland. This nerve is important in closing the eyes, wrinkling the nose, and moving the lips. Most often the parotid gland can be removed without permanent damage to the nerve, however, the size and position of the diseased tissue may require that the nerve, or small branches of the nerve, be cut to assure complete removal. Even if the nerve is not permanently injured, there may be decreased motion of the facial muscles as the nerve recovers from the surgical procedure. If facial motion does not fully return, there are ways to surgically rehabilitate facial movement.



Location and extent of the scar

Other possible short term complications include **bleeding and infection**. Although rare in parotid surgery, some patients may develop a thick **scar or keloid**.

Many patients experience **numbing of the earlobe** and outer edge of the ear after parotid surgery. This generally resolves slowly over time. In a small proportion of patients the face on the side of the parotidectomy **sweats** at mealtimes, ("gustatory sweating"). Most often this goes essentially unnoticed, however, if it should become bothersome medication and sometimes surgery are available. Very rarely, a **salivary fistula** may occur, with saliva draining from a small opening in the incision. This may require further surgery to correct.

Depending on the final diagnosis after the tissue is reviewed by a pathologist, additional diagnostic tests and follow-up examinations may be needed. Most often masses of the parotid are benign, and complete removal is the only treatment needed. There are no guarantees in medicine and so you must be aware that there is also a chance that you may require further surgery to achieve the desired result(s). Any surgical procedure also carries a risk, albeit small, of death.

I/We have been given an opportunity to ask questions about my condition, alternative forms of treatment, risks of nontreatment, the procedures to be used, and the risks and hazards involved, and I/we have sufficient information to give this informed consent. I/We certify this form has been fully explained to me/us, and I/we understand its contents. I/We understand every effort will be made to provide a positive outcome, but there are no guarantees.

_____ **Date:**_____
Patient / Legal Guardian

_____ **Date:**_____
Witness

The language included in these informed consent pages is adapted from the Clinical Indicators pages of the American Academy of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery, Inc