

Parotid Surgery

You have been diagnosed as having a parotid tumour and have been listed for surgery. Your surgeon will have explained why an operation is recommended and when it will be done. If, while you are waiting, there are any changes in size, alterations in facial shape or movement, or pain develops, please contact the Consultant's secretary.

The complications related to parotid surgery are:

- **Facial paralysis:** weakness of one side of the face. The tumour is usually close to the nerves on that side. Temporary weakness occurs in approximately one in five cases. Permanent weakness is rare, occurring in less than one in fifty cases.
- **Haematoma:** a collection of blood may accumulate under the skin; if this happens, it may need draining.
- **Wound infection:** may occur, but this is rare.
- **Frey's Syndrome:** in some cases the area of the face where the tumour was may sweat while eating is taking place. The larger the amount of gland removed, the more likely it is that this sweating will occur.
- **Numbness of the ear:** parts of your ear will be numb after the operation. This sensation will improve over the following months, but will not return completely to normal.
- **Tumour recurrence:** recurrence may take place, but it is not common and the surgeon would have indicated to you the probability of this happening when discussing your operation.
- **Salivary fistula:** there may be a slight leakage of saliva from the wound site. This will settle down.
- **Scar:** Every effort is made to minimise its appearance, but there will be a scar.



After your operation

You will have a drain leading from your wound site and also sutures (stitches), which are dissolvable, so you will not need to have them removed. The drain is removed after 48 hours. You may have some slight discomfort over the operation site, but you will be given painkillers. You may notice that some hair may have been shaved off in front of your ear, but this will re-grow. You will be able to eat and drink as normal within a few hours and you will be discharged from hospital 48 hours after your operation. Avoid lying on the side of the operation site for a few weeks to allow the wound to heal fully. Keep the wound dry and take care when washing your hair for about one week. If you have any weakness of the side of your face, take care to protect the affected eye. You will be given instructions (and, if necessary, eye drops and eye pads) when you are discharged.

Your hearing will not be damaged in any way. You may notice a slight hollow over the site, depending on the size of the tumour and the extent of the surgery. You will be given a follow-up appointment to see the surgeon in the outpatient clinic two weeks after your operation.

If you have any problems, such as pain, swelling, or discharge, please contact the ENT clinic on: **01302 366666 ext 3682** or dial direct to Ward S12 on: **01302 553321**.

Your specialist nurse will be happy to answer your questions and talk through any worries that you or your relatives may have about your proposed surgery.

Patient Advice & Liaison Service (PALS)

PALS staff are available to offer advice or information on healthcare matters. The office is in the Main Foyer (Gate 4) of Doncaster Royal Infirmary. Contact can be made either in person, by telephone or email. PALS staff can also visit inpatients on all Trust sites.

The contact details are:

Telephone: 01302 553140 or 0800 028 8059

Email: pals.dbh@dbh.nhs.uk

