

PARATHYROIDECTOMY for people with kidney disease.

WHAT IS A PARATHYROIDECTOMY?

There are four or more parathyroid glands (situated in the neck, two either side of your thyroid gland) and when they become enlarged in response to abnormalities of calcium and phosphate metabolism, they may require surgical removal. Sometimes only one gland needs to be removed and sometimes all the gland are taken out.

What sort of anaesthetic will I have?

You will require a general anaesthetic (in other words you will be asleep during the procedure).

What happens during the procedure?

A small incision is made in the skin of your neck. Once the glands are identified they may be removed through this incision. A drain tube may be placed in the wound and remain overnight. A calcium infusion (given intravenously into a vein) will be commenced in theatre and continue until you can take calcium tablets and your blood calcium level is stable.

What can I expect after surgery?

You will stay in hospital for 3-7 days. Your incision will be covered with a waterproof protective dressing. You can shower and wash your hair as usual. You may notice some discomfort, bruising or numbness near the wound and this will gradually improve over the first few days after the operation. You will have daily blood tests to measure your calcium levels post-operatively. After the glands are removed you will most likely need calcium and vitamin D tablets for many weeks or months. It is extremely important that you continue taking these medications as prescribed and perform blood tests to check calcium levels as requested by your doctor.

What kind of pain relief will I need?

Your pain should be controlled with oral pain relief such as paracetamol or Panadeine.

When will I see the doctor again?

A follow up appointment will be made for you to return to the hospital 2 weeks after the surgery. The dressing will be removed and the wound checked. Skin sutures will be dissolvable and therefore won't need to be removed.

Special requirements after leaving the hospital

Your neck may be sore so it may be best not to drive for at least a week.

Take paracetamol as needed for pain relief.

Contact your local doctor or the Hospital for the following:

- Bleeding or wound discharge
- Redness, inflammation or discharge from suture line
- Fever or temperature greater than 38 degrees
- Severe pain not controlled by oral pain relief
- Increased swelling or difficulty breathing
- Tingling around the lips or fingertips
- Severe muscle cramps
- Any other concerns you may have

Contact

If you are unwell and unable to attend the hospital for your surgery, please contact Elective Bookings Service:

9342 8400

If you have any queries about your operation prior to your surgery, please contact the Elective Bookings Service and asked to be put through to the Unit Liaison Nurse.

Contact the Surgical Registrar by calling 9342700 and ask to page the Surgical Registrar

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