



RISKS AND COMPLICATIONS OF SUBMANDIBULAR GLAND EXCISION

Purpose of Surgery: _____

Alternative Treatment: _____

Submandibular gland excision is an operation to remove the submandibular gland. It is performed for cases of chronic submandibular gland infection, salivary duct stones, or tumors.

As with any surgery, there are both potential benefits and risks. You must keep in mind that you may not benefit from the surgery. The following information will help you understand the risks of Submandibular gland excision. As with any operation, there may be some unanticipated complications in addition to those listed here.

Bleeding: Substantial bleeding requiring transfusion is extremely rare. A hematoma or collection of blood under the skin incision is unusual. Removal of the clot may require additional surgery and prolonged hospitalization.

Infection: Though infection is not common, it is a risk with any surgical procedure. Should infection occur, it may require prolonged treatment in or out of the hospital. Fortunately, this is a rare complication. A wound infection occurs in a few cases and is treated with antibiotics and drainage, and is usually not a serious problem.

Nerve Injury: A nerve that depresses the corner of the mouth (like in a frown) travels over the submandibular gland. It is usually easily dissected away from the gland before excision in order to protect it from injury. However, an immediate or delayed weakness of the corner of the mouth is rare and may occur as the result of swelling or injury of this nerve branch. Such a weakness or injury is usually not noticeable.

Taste Disturbance: Taste disturbance and mouth dryness occasionally occur following surgery. In rare patients, this disturbance is prolonged for several months.

Numbness: A lack of sensation around the area of your incision is very common and can last for several weeks to a few months. In rare instances, the numbness can be permanent.

Scar: You will have a scar underneath the side of your jaw. Initially this will be swollen and red. As it heals, the swelling and redness will lessen. It is a good idea not to expose the scar to direct sunlight for the first 6 months after surgery to prevent the scar from hyperpigmenting (getting dark).

Recurrence: Although every attempt is made to remove all of the submandibular gland, there is a small possibility of recurrence due to residual or recurrent disease. This may require additional surgery.

Anesthesia: There are risks associated with any type of anesthesia including but not limited to respiratory problems, drug reaction, brain damage, or even death. Other risks and hazards that may result from the use of general anesthetics include but are not limited to minor discomfort due to injury to the vocal cords, teeth, or eyes. You can discuss these risks with your anesthesiologist before your surgery.

I have read, understand and accept the risks and complications of this operation. I have made known to my physicians any medical term appearing in this form with which I am unfamiliar

and all such medical terms have been explained to my satisfaction. Alternative types of treatment have been discussed with me and I want to go ahead with surgery.

Signature: **X** _____

Date: _____

Print name: _____

Witness: _____