
Day Surgery Unit

Parathyroidectomy

What is a parathyroidectomy?

- There are normally four parathyroid glands, the parathyroids are small glands situated behind the thyroid glands at the base of the neck.
- They produce parathyroid hormone (PTH), which controls the level of calcium in the blood.
- In primary hyperthyroidism, glands become overactive producing too much parathyroid hormone.
- This leads to high calcium in blood, and can have damaging effects.
- It has been recommended that you have one or more of the parathyroid glands removed surgically to reduce the production of PTH.
- The procedure is usually done under general anaesthetic.

After surgery:

Following your surgery, you may experience a drop in your blood calcium levels. You may be prescribed vitamin D tablets to help this. If your doctor wants you to take these tablets, you will be told on the day of surgery.

It is possible that after your surgery you may experience some pain and some soreness around the wound site. Painkillers will be prescribed to ease any discomfort you feel and you will be given some to take home with you.

If you have the procedure under general anaesthetic, you will probably feel quite tired for the first few days after the operation. This is very normal, and we recommend that you relax at home for a couple of days.

We generally suggest that you can return to work a week or two after surgery. This is as long as you take it easy and do not do any vigorous activity.

The nurse looking after you on the day of surgery will advise:

- What you need to do with your dressings.
- Whether you have any stitches that will need removing.
- Whether you will need any follow up.

It is important that you monitor your wound for any signs of infection, for example:

- redness
- swelling
- or increased temperature.

If you have any problems please contact:

- The Day Surgery Unit on 01223 256330
- Your Consultants registrar on 01223 245151
- Or Mr Wishart's secretary on 01223 2163150



We are currently working towards a smoke-free site. Smoking is only permitted in the designated smoking areas.

For advice and support in quitting, contact your GP or the free NHS Stop Smoking helpline on 0800 169 0 169

Help with this leaflet:



If you would like this information in another language, large print or audio format, please ask the department to contact Patient Information: 01223 216032 or patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk



Document history

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