



SUBMANDIBULAR GLAND REMOVAL

The submandibular gland is one of your spit glands that is located under your jaw. Typically, it makes saliva throughout the day to keep your mouth moist. Various issues can arise with the gland, including stones that block the flow of saliva, leading to infections, strictures (or narrowing) of the pathways that drain the gland, and/or masses. If the need arises for removal of the gland, then this is typically same-day surgery. You will have an incision on your neck a few inches below your jaw. The gland is removed while keeping safe the structures around the gland. There are 3 nerves around the submandibular gland.

- Weakness of the lower lip - a lower branch of the facial nerve is the nerve most likely to be bruised in the removal of a submandibular gland. If bruising occurs, it affects the movement of your lower lip, leading to a slightly crooked smile.
- Numbness of the tongue - the lingual nerve is rarely bruised. Since it is the nerve that supplies feeling to the side of the tongue, bruising results in a tingly or numb feeling in the tongue, similar to the sensation after having an injection at the dentist.
- Restricted tongue movement - the hypoglossal nerve is only very rarely bruised. It is a nerve that makes the tongue move, and damage can therefore result in a decrease in tongue movement.

The most common postoperative issue is pain, bleeding, or infection. When nerve damage occurs, it is typically temporary but may take months to improve.

POSTOPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

Call Our Office If

Fever is greater than 102; bleeding occurs; the surgical area is red, swollen, warm to the touch, or draining pus.

Wound Care

- Keep incision clean and dry.
 - Avoid tension or pulling at stitches.
 - Coat suture line gently with Vaseline.
 - Change dressing as ordered by the physician.
 - If steri-strips have been applied to the operative site, they will fall off by themselves.
- 1) Avoid blood thinners such as Aspirin, Coumadin, and Heparin for 3-5 days following surgery.
 - 2) Most patients usually will take off a week of work for recovery. Avoid strenuous activities for 14 days following surgery.
 - 3) You can have a normal diet after surgery.

Please contact our office at 478-743-8953 if you have any questions or concerns.