



EAR, NOSE & THROAT CONSULTANTS OF NEVADA

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PARATHYROIDECTOMY

Your doctor has determined that you have an abnormality or growth of the parathyroid gland(s) that requires surgery. The parathyroid glands are four small glands around the size of a grain of rice that secrete a hormone that regulates the calcium level of the blood. There are two glands on each side, one below the thyroid gland, and one behind the thyroid gland. The gland is located in the lower neck, directly in front the trachea or windpipe. The removal of one of more of these glands requires an incision in the lower neck around an inch.

Complications from this operation are not common, but they can occur. Although unlikely, it is possible that you will be no better after the operation than you are now. It is even possible that you will be worse after the operation than you are now. Because of these facts, your doctor can make no guarantee as to the result that might be obtained from the operation. However, in the vast majority of patients the outcome desired from the operation is achieved.

As with other operations, complications can result from parathyroid surgery. Some of these complications can result in prolonged illness, permanent disability, and the need for further surgery. Possible complications of thyroid surgery include bleeding, infection, and poor wound healing and unsightly scar formation.

Nerves that supply the voice box run in close proximity to the thyroid gland and are at risk for injury during thyroid surgery. Injury to these nerves could result in hoarseness and/or airway obstruction. These complications could be permanent and may require additional surgery to correct the problem. Airway obstruction could be caused by bleeding or recurrent laryngeal nerve injury.

Injury or removal of all four of these glands can cause hypoparathyroidism – low calcium in the blood. This can cause weakness, muscle spasm, or heart irregularities. If this occurs, temporary or long term calcium (and possibly vitamin D) supplementation may be needed.

I CERTIFY that I have read or had read to me the contents of this form. I understand the risks, benefits, alternative, and possible complications involved in this procedure. I have had the opportunity to ask any questions and all of my questions have been answered.

Patient/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Witness: _____ Date: _____

Patient Account #: _____

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