



EAR, NOSE & THROAT CONSULTANTS OF NEVADA

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THYROIDECTOMY (PARTIAL OR COMPLETE)

Your doctor has determined that you have an abnormality or growth of the thyroid gland that requires surgery. The thyroid gland is a gland that produces thyroid hormone, a substance that regulates many bodily functions. The gland is located in the lower neck, directly in front of the trachea or windpipe. The removal of part or the entire gland requires an incision in the lower neck. 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 thyroid 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.

The four parathyroid glands lie on or near the thyroid gland. These small parathyroid glands secrete a hormone, which regulates calcium metabolism. Injury or removal 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.

Other possible complications include pneumothorax (collapse of lung), thyroid storm (excessive release of thyroid hormone associated with abnormal heart rhythm, heart failure, and vascular collapse), anesthetic complications, allergic or adverse reactions to substances used during the procedure, and in rare instances even death.

There may be alternatives to thyroid surgery such as the use of drug therapy. However, the alternatives carry their own risks and varying degrees of success.

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.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Witness: _____ Date: _____

Account#: _____

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