

Thyroidectomy Instructions

Postoperative Instructions:

1. Following thyroid surgery you will have a gauze dressing over the incision. You may notice a small amount of bloody drainage on the dressing. If the dressing is saturated please notify us. You will also be sent home with a drain in your neck. The surgery staff will instruct you on how to care for this drain and empty the drain container. Please record the amount drained out of the container each time, and bring the information to clinic.
2. You will come to the office in 2-3 days and the dressing will be removed. You will then be able to shower.
3. If you had a total thyroidectomy, we will be monitoring your calcium closely and will start you on thyroid hormone replacement.
4. A pain medication will be prescribed to assist you.
5. Try to keep your head elevated when sleeping the first 2-3 nights. No heavy lifting [>15 lbs.]
6. Do not take Aspirin or Motrin or other blood thinning products until approximately 5 days after surgery.
7. No new dietary restrictions.
8. Temperature up to 101.5° is normal for the first two days after surgery. Temperature greater than this or more prolonged may indicate infection.
9. If you have excessive bleeding, severe neck swelling, or difficulty breathing notify us immediately at the number below.
10. If you have had a total thyroidectomy and your calcium is very low you may notice numbness around the lips, tingling in the fingers, and/or cramping of hands or feet. Call us if that occurs.
11. A postoperative appointment will be scheduled for you, but if you have any problems please call the office at **[228] 864-2121**

An appointment has been scheduled for you in Dr. Leatherman's clinic on _____ at _____ a.m. / p.m.



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