



What is a Thyroidectomy?

A thyroidectomy is the procedure performed to remove all or part of the thyroid gland. Located in the front of the neck, the thyroid is a butterfly-shaped gland, consisting of two lobes connected by an isthmus. The gland is responsible for regulating metabolism by secreting hormones. When diseases affect the thyroid, its size or activity may become abnormal. These diseases include thyroid cancer, goiter, and hyperthyroidism. Thyroid problems can often be treated medically, but in some cases, the thyroid needs to be removed. The extent of thyroid removal depends on the patient's condition.

- Partial thyroid lobectomy- the removal of part of a lobe
- Thyroid lobectomy-the removal of an entire lobe
- Thyroid lobectomy with isthmusectomy-the removal of the isthmus in addition to a lobe.
- Subtotal thyroidectomy-the removal of the entire thyroid gland.

Details of the procedure:

What do I need to do before surgery?

You will be asked to pre-register with the appropriate hospital and provide demographic and insurance information. This must be completed at least five to ten days before the date of surgery. Your surgeon will give you specific instructions on how to prepare for your surgery.

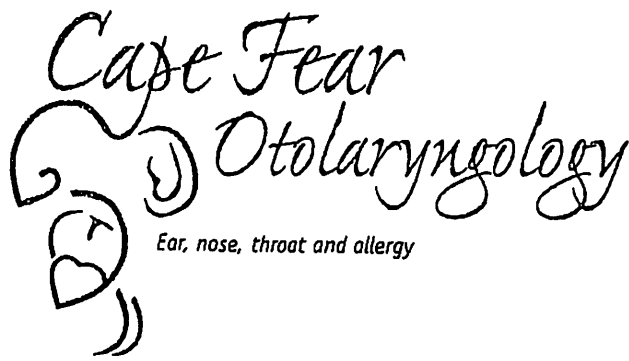
What type of anesthesia will be used?

Before the operation, you will have an interview with an anesthesiologist. A thyroidectomy is performed under general anesthesia, which will keep you asleep during surgery.

What should I watch out for?

Be sure to call your doctor if any of the following symptoms appear: 910-323-9222

- Symptoms of hypoparathyroidism, which includes tingling and spasms of the extremities
- Fever
- Redness or swelling around the incision
- Warm incision
- Drainage from the incision



Will there be a scar(s)?

The area of incision normally heals very well. There is usually a light scar where the incision is made after healing is completed.

When can I return to work and resume normal activities?

Most patients will be able to resume normal activities after a few weeks of rest.

What happens on the day of surgery?

You will report to a post-operative nursing unit, where you will change into a gown. A nurse will review your chart and confirm that all paperwork is in order. You will be taken to a pre-operative nursing unit. Where the anesthesiologist will start the IV. Before any medications are administered your surgeon will verify your name and the type of procedure you are having. You will then be taken to the operating room. After the appropriate form of anesthesia is administered, surgery will be performed.

What happens during the surgery, how is the surgery performed?

A 1 ½ to 3inch incision is made in a normal skin crease in the lower neck. The thyroid gland and blood vessels are then exposed and separated from the gland along with the parathyroid gland and the nerve to the vocal cords. Then part of or the entire gland is removed. A drain may be placed in the operated site before the incision is closed.

What happens after the procedure?

Once the surgery is complete, a nurse will monitor your recovery in a post-operative or recovery unit. You will be educated on how long to change your dressing and properly care for your incision. You should inspect the incision daily and report any redness or other signs of infection to your physician. If the entire gland is removed, you will be required to take thyroid supplements for life.

How long will I be in the hospital?

Patients often remain in the hospital overnight after the operation.

What are the risks associated with the procedure?

As with any surgery there are risks such as bleeding, Infection or an adverse reaction to anesthesia. Rare but possible risk include airway obstruction paralysis of vocal cords and inadequate calcium in the blood. Your doctor will inform you of the risks prior surgery.