

Surgery & Cancer Division – Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)

Thyroidectomy

Introduction

Your ENT Consultant has recommended a thyroidectomy which is a surgical procedure to remove all or part of the thyroid gland, which is in the neck. The thyroid gland releases thyroid hormone, which controls many critical functions of the body.

You will be provided with a written information leaflet that details your specific surgery when you attend the ENT Outpatients Department.

If you do not receive written information please contact the ENT Outpatient Department, on 01270 612206.

Guidance for Patients

A thyroidectomy is usually performed for the following reasons:

- Thyroid cancer
- Non-cancerous enlargement of the thyroid
- Overactive thyroid
- As a diagnostic procedure for indeterminate or suspicious thyroid nodules.

A thyroidectomy is usually performed as a short-stay procedure under general anaesthetic although you may need to stay in overnight

- An incision is usually made low in the centre of your neck. A scar will be left which will fade over time.
- After surgery, you may experience neck pain and a hoarse or weak voice. These symptoms are often short term and in most cases resolve over time.
- If your whole thyroid is removed you will need to take medication each day which contains the synthetic thyroid hormone levothyroxine.
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What should I do if my health is deteriorating?

If you feel your symptoms are deteriorating, please contact your GP or NHS 111 for medical review in the first instance. Your GP will be able to advise if this is something they can support with during your wait or they will be able to contact your ENT team to discuss their findings in more detail and determine a management plan.

Contact Us

Admission Date - Please contact the ENT Scheduling Team 01270 273390