



S U B U R B A N
Ear, Nose & Throat
Associates, Ltd.

*Otolaryngology-
Head & Neck Surgery*

Lon J. Petchenik M.D.

George Smyrniotis, M.D.

Glenn J. Schwartz, M.D.

Kirk R. Clark, M.D.

Allan A. Ho, M.D.

Maria L. Wittkopf, M.D.

Marci J. Pugnale, M.D.

Shannon K. Pachnik, FNP-C

Allergy-Immunology

Anne Marie Ditto, M.D.



5999 New Wilke Rd
Building 1
Rolling Meadows, IL 60008

1555 Barrington Rd
Doctors Building 1, Suite 530
Hoffman Estates, IL 60169

Telephone: (847) 259-2530
Fax: (847) 259-4930
www.SubENT.com

SUBMANDIBULAR GLAND EXCISION SURGICAL INFORMED CONSENT

The operation that has been recommended is the procedure for the excision of the submandibular salivary gland. This operation involves permanently removing the salivary gland from the neck. This surgery is used to treat benign or malignant disorders of the salivary gland, or may be done for recurrent infections of the salivary gland (sialoadenitis), which may or may not be due to recurrent or persistent salivary gland stones (sialolithiasis).

TWO WEEKS BEFORE SURGERY: Avoid all non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (“NSAIDs”), including aspirin, ibuprofen, Motrin, Advil, Naproxen and others, because these medications may increase bleeding. You may be instructed to stop multivitamins. Please discontinue homeopathic or alternative medicines, such as ginseng or ginkgo biloba as these may also increase bleeding.

DAY BEFORE SURGERY: You may eat a regular diet and take most of your medicines the day before surgery, but nothing is to be eaten after midnight. Clear liquids (water, tea, Gatorade) can be taken up to four hours before surgery. If taking medicines, please check with your physician to see which should be continued.

HOSPITAL STAY: Excision of the submandibular gland may be performed as outpatient surgery or require an overnight hospital stay.

LAB WORK: Your physician may request that bloodwork is done prior to surgery. If this is needed, you will receive an order form for this bloodwork, and the location of the lab to perform the blood draw is usually recommended based on your insurance company and where your surgery is to be performed.

AFTER SURGERY: Usually there is no restriction on what you can eat or drink after surgery. A drain may be placed in your neck after surgery. We request that aspirin and NSAIDs should not be taken for 1-2 weeks after surgery due to increased risk of bleeding. We recommend avoiding strenuous activity for 1-2 weeks after surgery to minimize the risk of bleeding or fluid collection in the neck.

How does a problem with the submandibular gland present? You have 6 major (2 submandibular glands, 2 sublingual glands and 2 parotid glands) and many minor salivary glands, which all contribute to your saliva production. Sometimes people present with a mass or lump in the neck. Usually imaging study such as CT, MRI or ultrasound will localize that the mass is involving the submandibular gland. Sometimes a biopsy called a fine-needle aspiration may be recommended if there is an abnormal mass within the gland. You also might have intermittent swelling with or without pain in the area of the gland. This

may or may not be due to stones that cause obstruction to salivary flow, which can create chronic infections or swelling.

What does surgery involve? The gland will be removed via an incision in your neck below your jaw line. The gland must be dissected away from surrounding muscles, blood vessels and nerves.. General anesthesia is used for surgery. In some cases, a small drain will be placed in the wound. After surgery, the patient will probably have some discomfort and pain medicine is usually prescribed. If external sutures are placed, they are generally removed about one week after surgery. The patient may shower or have a sponge bath at home one to two days after surgery, after the drain is removed. Recovery takes about 1-2 weeks. A follow-up appointment about 1-2 weeks after the surgery is typically made to check how the area is healing.

The indications and risks of surgery should be understood prior to proceeding with surgery. You should understand the alternatives to the surgery. Your alternative includes not having the surgery performed, which would leave you in your current condition. If you have chronic infections, you could continue with intermittent antibiotic treatment. If you have salivary stones, sometimes these stones are amenable to direct excision through the mouth, but not in all cases.

SURGICAL RISKS AND POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS:

Despite the fact that surgery in the neck involves dissection in proximity to many important structures such as vessels and nerves, excising this salivary gland is usually performed without difficulty or long- term complications. Most patients usually leave the hospital the day of or the day after surgery.

After any surgery, some pain is normal, but if it does not decrease or worsens, it may be abnormal and indicate infection or bleeding. *Bleeding* and *infection* are possible, as with any surgery. There is not a high incidence of either of these complications with this type of surgery. The drain that may be placed during surgery is designed to help prevent these. You may get bruising of the neck around the incision.

There will be a *scar*, which will be carefully planned and sewn. Usually the scar from this type of surgery blends well into natural neck creases, but sometimes patients can get thickening or excess scar tissue such as hypertrophic scar or keloid. If the scar heals with unsatisfactory appearance, scar revision is possible. There is often numbness of the skin around the incision, which will recover over several months as the small sensory nerves supplying the skin heal.

Rarely, a collection of saliva can form after surgery called a *sialocele*, which may require repeated drainage. If this tracks to the skin, a fistula may develop which may require further surgery or other treatment. If a salivary stone is left behind, this may require further surgery if it causes infections.

There are 3 important nerves located near the submandibular gland. ‘Bruising’ of these nerves can occur causing temporary dysfunction of the nerves. Long-term or permanent damage to these nerves is rare. These risks may be increased when there is malignancy or history of recurrent infections in the gland. Damage to the *marginal mandibular branch of the facial nerve* can cause

weakness of your lower lip muscle causing a crooked smile. The *lingual nerve* supplies sensation to the tongue, and damage would cause numbness of the tongue. The *hypoglossal nerve* allows the tongue to move, and if weak it can cause difficulty with tongue motion.

The operation is carried out under general anesthesia. As with any type of surgery, the risks of *anesthesia* such as drug reaction, breathing difficulties, and even death are possible. With this type of surgery anesthetics reactions are very rare. Please feel free to discuss any specific concerns about anesthesia with the anesthesiology team.

GENERAL POST-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS/CARE

1. Activity: Light activity (lifting <10 lbs. and no working out) is advised for 1-2 weeks after surgery.
2. Diet: General diet as tolerated is recommended.
3. Medicines: Pain medications are typically prescribed. These are to be taken as directed. Antibiotics may also be prescribed.
4. Bathing: Generally, showering is fine 24 hours after the surgery after the drains are removed. No bathing or soaking in water is recommended until after the incision is healed.
5. Post-operative follow-up: Sutures may be dissolvable or may have to be removed a week after surgery. A post-operative follow-up is typically scheduled for about a week after surgery, but may be needed sooner if you leave the hospital with a surgical drain in place.

At Suburban Ear, Nose and Throat Associates, Ltd., we go to great lengths to try to help you understand your plan of care. If at any time during your care you have questions or concerns, please call us at 847-259-2530.

I have been given an opportunity to ask questions about my condition, alternative forms of treatment, risks of non-treatment, the procedures to be used and the risks and hazards involved. I have sufficient information to give this informed consent. I understand every effort will be made to provide a positive outcome, but there are no guarantees.

Patient name **printed**: _____

Patient **signature**, or if applies Parent/Guardian/POA **signature**: _____

If applies, Parent/Guardian/POA **printed** name: _____

If applies, Parent/Guardian/POA **relationship** to patient: _____

Date: _____ Time: _____

Witness: _____ Date: _____