



## SALIVARY GLAND SURGERY: HOME CARE

- 1.) **PAIN.** This is usually not a major problem with this type of surgery, but you should have a prescription which can help you if you are in pain.
- 2.) **DIET.** You should start with some simple soft bland food, such as jello, mashed potatoes or pudding and clear liquids, such as water or apple juice. If this does not make you sick to your stomach, you may start to eat any food.
- 3.) **NAUSEA.** You may feel sick to your stomach after surgery because of the general anesthesia. The feeling should pass within a few hours after arriving home. If not, you can purchase Dramamine without a prescription.
- 4.) **BEDREST.** You should plan to stay in bed or a recliner with your head elevated by at least 2 pillows for the first 2 days. You need to stay quiet to allow your body to begin to heal properly.
- 5.) **BLEEDING.** There will be some amount of bleeding from the area under the skin where the salivary gland was cut out. Your surgeon may choose to place one of 2 types of drainage systems. One is the simple system of a small piece of soft rubber that keeps the edges of the skin apart in one area of the incision. The other system uses tubing and a bulb that draws out the blood.

If you have the **soft rubber drain**, you should expect that the gauze of your neck dressing will become soiled with blood. You may tape more gauze over the dressing if you want. But leave the original dressing alone.

If you have the **drain with a bulb**, the bulb needed to be collapsed at all times. When it fills with blood or saliva, you may empty it into your toilet or sink. Then squeeze the bulb and recap it.

Drains are usually removed in 1 to 3 days, depending on how much they collect.

Dressings are usually changed a few times before they are discontinued.

- 6.) It is likely that your **earlobe will feel numb**. Often this diminishes with over months.
- 7.) **WORK.** You should expect to be out of work 1-2 weeks depending on the complexity of the surgery and the demands of your work.
- 8.) **PATHOLOGY.** The information about the tissue that is removed at surgery is often not made available to you or your surgeon for about one week.
- 9.) CALL our office (331-9690)

- ❖ If you have a fever >100 degrees F.
- ❖ Excessive bleeding.
- ❖ Uncontrolled pain.
- ❖ Poor movement of any part of your face.