



Having Parathyroid Surgery

You have one or more enlarged parathyroid glands. This can cause primary hyperparathyroidism. The parathyroid glands control the calcium level in your blood. Primary hyperparathyroidism causes high levels of blood calcium (hypercalcemia). This can lead to problems around your body. To treat the problem, the enlarged glands are removed with surgery. You may need one or more parathyroid glands removed.

During the surgery

- An incision is made in your neck.
- One or more enlarged parathyroid glands are removed. In some cases, all four glands are enlarged. When this happens, one and a half of the glands may be removed. The remaining half gland often makes enough hormone to replace four normal glands. In rare cases, all of the glands are removed.
- If all four glands are removed, part of one gland is then replaced in another part of the body, usually in the neck or arm. This is called parathyroid autotransplantation. The moved gland continues to work from this new place in the body.
- When surgery is complete, the incision is closed with sutures (stitches), strips of surgical tape or surgical glue.

After the surgery

Recovery from parathyroid surgery is usually quick. You may go home on the day of surgery or you may need to stay overnight. Once you're ready to go home, you'll be given instructions for how to care for yourself. Follow the instructions carefully. You may need to take Vitamin D and calcium supplements after the surgery.

When to call your health care provider

Call your health care provider if you notice any of the following during your recovery:

- Numbness or tingling in the fingertips or around the mouth
- Muscle cramping or spasms
- Neck swelling
- Fever of 100.4 or higher
- Increasing redness, swelling or fluid leaking from the incision site
- Nausea or vomiting
- Hoarse voice that worsens
- Trouble breathing
- Trouble swallowing
- Irregular heartbeat

