

**Dr Joanna Morgan**  
**Specialist Breast Thyroid and Parathyroid Surgeon**



## **PATIENT INFORMATION – POST OPERATIVE CARE**

### **PARATHYROIDECTOMY – BILATERAL NECK EXPLORATION**

#### *Wound Care*

Both sides of your neck have been explored and overactive parathyroid gland(s) have been removed during surgery. The skin has been numbed with local anaesthetic and sewn closed with a blue removable stitch. Paper stitches (Steristrips®) have been stuck onto the skin over the scar. If inserted, a drain tube will be removed before you leave hospital. Please check the wound dressing daily. You may have a shower and get the Steristrips® wet. Dry your neck by carefully dabbing the dressing dry, allowing it to air dry or even using a hairdryer on low heat. Be warned not to inadvertently burn your skin.

#### *Pain Relief*

Regular pain relief with paracetamol (e.g. Panadol®) 1g (two 500mg tablets) four times a day for the first few days after leaving hospital often provides sufficient pain relief.

#### *Diet*

Choose softer foods (e.g. soup, pasta, ice cream) for the first few days after surgery as your throat might be sore. Lozenges can also be soothing.

#### *Activity*

To avoid developing a stiff neck, spend a few minutes, three or four times a day to do neck exercises. Carefully flex and extend your neck, rotate left and right, and laterally flex by trying to touch each ear on its neighbouring shoulder. Gentle exercise, for example walking, is recommended. You should avoid vigorous exercise for at least a week after surgery. Driving should be avoided if possible until review following discharge. Usually I would recommend up to a week off work, but naturally this can vary.

#### *Complications*

Serious wound problems after leaving hospital are quite rare. However, minor neck swelling around the scar is common and will settle with time. If you develop difficulty breathing and/or significant neck swelling then **call an ambulance on 000**. Infection is uncommon, but may be suspected if the wound becomes increasingly tender and red. You might start to feel unwell with a fever. The quality of your voice may have altered and frequently improves over the coming days and weeks.

#### *Appointment*

Prior to leaving hospital, an appointment should be made for review at Brighton Specialist Centre within one week from surgery. Please ring my secretary if you do not have an appointment.

#### *Contact*

If you have a concern, please contact Dr Joanna Morgan or the hospital.