



## **PARATHYROIDECTOMY INFORMED CONSENT**

Parathyroidectomy is an operation in which one or more parathyroid glands are removed. This operation is performed to control hyperparathyroidism (overactivity of the parathyroid glands) which is either caused by a benign tumor of one or more of the glands (parathyroid adenoma), or generalized growth and overactivity of all of the glands (parathyroid hyperplasia). In rare instances, surgery is performed on the parathyroid glands in order to remove a parathyroid cancer. Hyperparathyroidism is associated with loss of calcium from the bones (osteoporosis), elevated serum calcium (hypercalcemia), generalized weakness and fatigue, lethargy, kidney stones, stomach ulcers, joint aches and pains, and constipation.

As with any surgery there are both potential benefits and risks. The following information will help you understand the risks of a parathyroidectomy. As with any operation, there may be some unanticipated complications in addition to the risks listed here.

- Post-operative bleeding may cause swelling in the throat and difficulty breathing due to pressure on the windpipe. It is usually fixed by a further operation to remove the blood clot.
- Injury to the laryngeal nerves may cause hoarseness of the voice. This is usually temporary, but may be permanent in up to 1 to 2% of cases. It may improve with speech therapy or further surgery to the vocal cords. If you are a singer or public speaker, any surgery to the thyroid may cause subtle long-term changes to your performing voice.
- Interference with the other parathyroid glands may cause the calcium level in the blood to drop (hypocalcemia). It is treated with calcium and vitamin D tablets and usually improves in a few weeks.
- A keloid, or overgrowth of scar tissue, may form in any surgical scar. It will result in a tender, pink raised scar but may be treated with silicone gel tapes or steroid injections.
- Even in the most expert hands, up to 5% of parathyroid tumors cannot be found at operation and the blood calcium will remain elevated (persistent hyperparathyroidism). Sometimes after successful surgery, one of the other parathyroid glands may also then become overactive and cause the blood calcium level to rise again (recurrent hyperparathyroidism).

Anesthesia: There are risks associated with any type of anesthesia including but not limited to respiratory problems, drug reaction, brain damage or even death. Other risks and hazards that may result from the use of general anesthetics include but are not limited to minor discomfort due to injury to the vocal cords, teeth or eyes. You can discuss these risks with your anesthesiologist before your surgery.

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

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_