

Parathyroidectomy: Returning Home

After your parathyroidectomy, you may have trouble chewing and swallowing.

Your voice might be hoarse.

And it might be hard to talk.

This is all normal.

And these symptoms usually go away within a few months, although sometimes it can take longer.

You may have stitches.

The doctor will tell you if you need to come back to have them removed or if they'll dissolve on their own.

Usually the doctor will take out the tube in your neck, called a drain, before you come home.

But if the drain is still there, your medical team will teach you how to take care of it.

After going home, be sure to follow any instructions about diet or activity, and take medicines as prescribed.

And be sure to follow any instructions for taking care of your incision.

Call your doctor if you have any problems, such as new or worse pain or an incision that comes open.

And call your doctor if bright red blood soaks through the bandage.

Also call your doctor if you see signs of infection, such as increased pain, swelling, warmth, or redness; red streaks leading from the area; pus draining from the area; or a fever.

Get emergency help right away if you pass out or if you feel like your heart is pounding, racing, or beating unevenly, which is called palpitations.

Taking care of yourself and knowing what to watch for can help you feel better and recover sooner.

Remember, if you have any questions, you can call your doctor.