



**MARYLAND ENT ASSOCIATES**  
**EAR • NOSE • THROAT**  
**FACIAL PLASTIC SURGERY**

**Proudly Part of Privia Health**

## **Informed Consent for Parotidectomy**

Patient Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Procedure: Parotidectomy (surgery to remove part or all of the parotid gland)

### **What is the parotid gland?**

The parotid glands are large salivary glands located in front of and just below the ear. They help make saliva, which keeps the mouth moist and helps with chewing and swallowing.

### **Purpose of the Surgery**

Parotidectomy means removing part or all of the parotid gland. This surgery may be needed because of:

- A lump or tumor (benign or cancerous)
- Chronic infection or blockage
- Other medical reasons affecting the gland

### **Alternatives**

- Observation (watching the lump over time)
- Needle biopsy or repeat imaging
- Non-surgical management (sometimes not possible depending on the cause)

### **Benefits**

- Removal of tumor or abnormal tissue
- Relief of symptoms such as swelling, pain, or repeated infections
- Diagnosis and treatment of suspicious or cancerous growths

### **Risks and Possible Complications**

All surgeries carry risks. While most patients recover safely, complications can occur. These include but are not limited to:

#### **General Risks (possible with any surgery):**

- Bleeding
- Infection
- Pain or swelling
- Scarring
- Blood clots
- Risks from anesthesia (such as breathing or heart problems)

Specific Risks of Parotidectomy:

- Facial nerve weakness or paralysis: The main nerve that controls movement of the face runs through the parotid gland. Injury can cause temporary or permanent weakness of part of the face (drooping of the mouth, eyelid, or eyebrow).
- Numbness: Loss of feeling around the ear, cheek, or neck (may be temporary or permanent).
- Frey's Syndrome: Sweating or flushing of the skin over the cheek when eating.
- Salivary problems: Dry mouth, saliva leakage, or fluid collection (seroma, sialocele).
- Skin or wound problems: Poor healing, infection, or thick/scarred incision.
- Need for more surgery: If the lump is cancerous, further treatment such as more surgery, radiation, or other therapies may be needed.
- Rare but serious risks: Stroke, heart attack, or death (related to major surgery and anesthesia).

After Surgery

- You may go home the same day or stay overnight.
- A drain may be placed temporarily to collect fluid.
- Recovery may take several weeks.
- Follow-up is needed to review healing and final results.

Patient Acknowledgment

I understand:

- Why I need this surgery.
- The alternatives to surgery.
- The risks, benefits, and possible complications.
- That no outcome can be guaranteed.

I have had the chance to ask questions, and all my questions were answered in a way I understand.

Patient (or Legal Guardian) Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Physician/Witness Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_