



## Neck Mass Excision

Removal of a neck mass is usually performed under general anesthesia. It requires an incision in the skin to remove the mass/masses. This procedure is usually performed to establish a diagnosis. Once the diagnosis is solidified, there may be other treatments needed.

The risks of the surgery include the general risks associated with anesthesia, which are fortunately quite rare. Other risks include bleeding, infection, and scarring. The vast majority of people don't have any of these problems develop.

There are several important nerves that course through the neck. Nerve injury is very uncommon in experienced hands. Potential nerves that may become injured include nerves controlling the movement of the face, speech and swallowing, proper shoulder function, tongue movement and taste, normal breathing, and sensation to touch. The particular nerves at risk are related to where the mass lies. Most patients who have only a neck mass excision are able to return to normal daily activities after healing.

It is recommended that you do not do any strenuous activity for one week after surgery. This minimizes the risk of bleeding and unsightly scarring. You can take a shower two days after surgery and get the incision site wet. Avoid scrubbing the area. Instead, just allow the water to run over the area. Sutures, if present, are removed about a week after surgery in the office. In the days and weeks after surgery, keep the incision moist with Vaseline or Dr. Rogers Restore ointment. Also, minimize sun exposure to the scar for several months to optimize healing.