Neck Dissection Post-Op Care Instructions

DSA Department of Head and Neck Surgery
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After Your Surgery:

Care:

- Care of the incision should include gentle cleaning of the incision with ½ strength hydrogen peroxide followed by a light coating of antibiotic ointment.
- Cleaning should be gentle with the goal of removing any dried blood or crusting from the incision and sutures.
- Cleaning should be performed twice a day.

Expectations:

- Depending on the type of neck dissection performed, shoulder weakness may result from injury to the nerve that controls the trapezius muscle.
- Chronic shoulder pain, reduced range of motion and frozen shoulder syndrome can result if range of motion and strength exercises are not performed.
- Typically, this drain will be connected to a silicone bulb.
- The bulb should be emptied two to three times a day. Output should be recorded prior to emptying the bulb.
- Other types of drains may also be used.
- If you go home with a drain, your nurse or surgeon will discuss drain care with you before you go home.
- Typically, a narcotic pain medication will be prescribed for pain relief by your surgeon. Antibiotics usage may or may not be recommended and will be determined by your surgeon.

Postoperative Follow up:
Initial follow up should occur approximately one week after the procedure. During this visit, sutures or staples will be removed and pathologic findings will be discussed. If you have any questions or problems, please call your doctor.