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Parotidectomy Consent Form

RIGHT

LEFT

The complications related to the surgery involve the proximity of important structures. Uncontrolled, persistent disease/malignant lesions pose similar risks and complications. The risk of complication increases when more extensive surgery is required to eradicate cancer.

Possible risks include, but are not limited to:

1. Bleeding or hematoma (collection of blood under the skin). This either absorbs spontaneously or must be drained. This problem is usually prevented by the drain.
2. Infection.
3. Complication of wound healing including: seroma (fluid collection), sialocele (saliva collection), loss of a portion of the skin flap, sensitivity to sutures. Occasionally, collections of fluid require drainage. This can usually be performed in the office and is not painful. Rarely, surgical correction is required. Persistent moistness in the surgical region while eating. This occurs to some extent in almost all patients. In most cases, it is quite minimal and is not very troubling to the patient.
4. Facial weakness or complete loss of facial motion/function. Fortunately, most tumors can be safely peeled away from adjacent nerves. There may be some post-operative weakness but this usually improves significantly over time (often months). If the nerve is invaded by the tumor, or there is extensive adhesions to the tumor, branches of the nerve may need to be removed in order to fully remove the tumor. In these cases, nerve reconstruction is attempted, if at all possible. If not, other procedures may be required to rehabilitate the paralyzed region. These procedures help by rarely result in normal movement.
5. Recurrence of the disease requiring additional surgery or persistence of disease, resulting in the need for additional forms of therapy (eg. Radiation therapy).
6. Necessity for more extensive surgery including removal of lymph nodes if cancer is found to have spread. More extensive surgery involves risks to other nerves, which are involved in sensation, tongue mobility, shoulder function, voice and swallowing, etc.
7. Chronic discomfort at the surgical site.

I have read and understand the above information and all of my questions have been answered. I understand that this surgery is elective (optional) and my alternatives include not having surgery.

Patient, Parent, or Guardian

Date

Copy given to patient