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WHY DO I NEED SURGERY?

The purpose of this operation is to remove a growth on your tongue that is suspicious for cancer. Biopsy of the tongue is unique in that the tongue is extremely vascular. Because of the fact that you may bleed significantly during surgery, we ask that you stop any type of medication that will induce bleeding seven to ten days prior to surgery. A list of these medications has been given to you in the information packet prior to surgery.

WHAT HAPPENS DURING SURGERY?

This procedure is done under general anesthesia. The tongue will be extended, the mass located and excised. Sutures will be placed. These will likely be removed seven to ten days after surgery at your first postoperative visit.

WHAT TO EXPECT AFTER SURGERY?

You may experience pain in the tongue after surgery. We will prescribe a painkiller and give you instructions for its use. Ice chips are also helpful for pain control. Spicy food should be avoided until the area is completely healed. A clear liquid diet is recommended for the first 72 hours after surgery. A regular diet may be resumed as tolerated after that.

A follow up visit will be required and sutures will be removed at that time.

WHAT ARE POSSIBLE RISKS AND COMPLICATIONS OF THE SURGERY?

As the tongue is extremely vascular, you may have bleeding after surgery. You may also have some bruising. This should resolve by itself.

There are two major nerves that reside in the tongue; the trigeminal nerve and a branch of the facial nerve. Cranial nerve XII also is located in this area, which allows movement of the tongue. These nerves may be involved with the tumor and if so, may need to be sacrificed. If that is the case, you may have problems with speech or sensation of the tongue.

If you have any further questions after having carefully read the above information, please feel free to discuss it with me in your preoperative evaluation, prior to any surgery. Remember, there are no dumb questions! We want you to be fully informed and comfortable prior to your surgery.

IT IS MANDATORY TO BRING A FAMILY MEMBER OR FRIEND WITH YOU TO THE PREOPERATIVE VISIT. THIS IS BECAUSE PATIENTS, AFTER THE SURGERY, DUE TO THE GENERAL ANESTHESIA MAY FORGET THE INFORMATION PROVIDED TO THEM BEFORE THE SURGERY.

PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THIS FORM TO OUR OFFICE WHEN YOU COME FOR YOUR PREOPERATIVE VISIT.

Please feel free to contact our office with any questions you might have at 714-441-0133.

Respectfully yours,

JAMES J. LEE, M.D., F.A.C.S.

JJL:nc

I understand the above information and consent to the surgery.

Patient Signature

Patient Name-Printed

Date