

Submandibular sialadenectomy-A brief report

Submandibular salivary glands are situated on either side of the neck below and deep to the mandible (lower jaw bone). It is a major salivary gland. Surgical removal of this gland is called Submandibular sialadenectomy.

It is indicated in 1) recurrent infection of the gland (sialadenitis). It is usually associated with presence of calculus (stone).

2) tumours of Submandibular salivary gland.

Prior to surgery general medical status is assessed by blood investigations and ECG. Details regarding past and present ailments, medications, allergies should be shared with the doctor. There will be restrictions regarding in take of food and fluid before and after surgery. It should be complied with. Please read document named **instructions to patients posted for surgery** for more information.

Surgery is usually done under general anaesthesia. Gland is approached through an incision made in the skin below mandible

It takes one to one and a half hours usually. Main intention of surgery is to remove submandibular salivary gland.

This is achieved in almost all cases.

After surgery the patient is kept in post operative ward under observation for 3 hours and then shifted to room. In cases where further monitoring is required, the patient is shifted to ICU. Oral feeds can start 5 hours after surgery.

Analgesic and antibiotic are given usually. Patient is kept in the hospital for one day. There will be a drain (drainage tube draining blood and serum) sutured to skin. Once drainage comes to a negligible level, drain is removed and the patient is discharged.

It is advised to stay at home for 1 week. Body bath can be taken. Head bath is deferred till sutures removed on first posted visit. First postoperative visit is on the 7th day. Histopathology report is obtained. Further follow ups are required only if patient has any symptoms or biopsy report warrants so.

Complications are rare. Weakness of a branch of facial nerve can occur. But it usually recovers. Hematoma due to collection of blood can occur. It can lead to infection.