



The Surgical Institute  
at True North

CHE MILLER MD | KAYLA WATKINS-JONES MD  
BRETT LOCKE APRN

# What is a Parathyroidectomy?

## How will the day go for me?

**Date of procedure:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Arrival Time:** The hospital staff will contact you the day before your procedure and give you an exact time of arrival. If you have not been contacted by 4:00 PM please call the hospital at (580) 251-8449 or our office at (580) 255-9797.

**Expected length of procedure:** There will be 30 minutes of prep time. The surgery will take approximately one to two hours and you will be in recovery for 30 additional minutes.

### What happens after I arrive?

- You will check in at Admissions and Outpatient Services (see map included in packet).
- Pre-op laboratories/imaging will be completed if not previously performed.
- A nurse will confirm your history, start your IV and fluids will be given.
- The surgeon will visit with you prior to your procedure and answer any questions you might have.
- Anesthesia will arrive to review your history and take you to the operating room.
- Anesthesia will be administered and the surgery will begin.

### Parathyroidectomy

What is a Parathyroidectomy?

• A parathyroidectomy is the surgical removal of one or more of your parathyroid glands. There are four parathyroid glands located behind the thyroid gland in your neck. Each gland is approximately the size of a grain of rice. These glands produce parathyroid hormone that is responsible for the regulation of calcium in your body.

#### The Procedure

• The surgeon makes an incision in a natural skin fold at the base of the front of your neck. During a parathyroidectomy, also known as a bilateral exploration, the surgeon delicately removes one or more of the tiny parathyroid glands. The specimen is brought to the pathologist who is onsite during your procedure. They will perform an initial evaluation of the specimen to ensure the affected parathyroid gland was removed. A parathormone level is drawn before you surgery and will be drawn again during your surgery. This is to ensure the successful resection of the abnormal gland by demonstrating a normal parathormone level after the parathyroid adenoma is removed.

• The incision is closed with sutures and surgical glue. The thyroid tissue is sent to pathology for further evaluation.

