



The Surgical Institute  
at True North

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# What is a Thyroidectomy?

## 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 have.
- Anesthesia will arrive to review your history and take you to the operating room.
- Anesthesia will be administered and the surgery will begin.

## Thyroidectomy

### What is a Thyroidectomy?

- The thyroid is a butterfly shaped gland that is located at the base of the neck. The thyroid produces hormones that are responsible for regulating metabolism. It also affects your heart, muscles, bones and cholesterol. A partial thyroidectomy removes one half of the thyroid. A complete thyroidectomy involves removal of the entire thyroid gland.

### The Procedure

- The surgeon makes an incision in a natural skin fold at the base of the front of your neck. If a partial thyroidectomy is being performed, the affected thyroid lobe is removed (either the left or the right lobe). In a total thyroidectomy, the same procedure is performed, but with the removal of the entire thyroid gland.
- The incision is closed with sutures and surgical glue. The thyroid tissue is sent to pathology for further evaluation. Should the entire gland require removal, most patients will need to stay over night to monitor labs and heart rhythm.

