

Facelift and Necklift

Initial Enquiry

Consultation time required	New patient 30-60 mins.
Approx. total cost	Ask your surgeon.
Will health insurance cover some costs?	Generally not.
MBS Item Nos.	Generally nil.
Usual length of operation	3-4 hours.
Usual length of stay	Overnight.
Type of anaesthesia (usually)	General.
Are there permanent scars?	Yes. In hairline above ears, around folds of ear where it meets the cheek and behind ear into hairline. Usually hard to see once healed.

Preoperative Instructions

Preoperative Instructions	No aspirin two weeks before, fast according to instructions, take any usual meds with a sip on the day of surgery. If you get ill, i.e. flu, before surgery, notify your surgeon.
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Postoperative Course

On discharge	Go home to rest under supervision, drink well, take pain meds as directed, start a light diet if you feel able to.
Next Day	Mobilise around the house, rest, drink well, take meds as directed, we encourage walking. Expect black eyes and bruising. Wear facial support as directed.
Day 2 – 7	Increase mobility as you feel better.
After Day 7	Return to usual activities, but expect to feel tired and need rest.
When is my first post-op visit?	Usually about 5-7 days after discharge.

Is there pain?	Expect mild pain – will need painkillers for some days. The neck area often feels tight for quite a long time – days to weeks, occasionally longer.
Is there swelling?	Yes, especially first 3 days but all swelling will take any weeks to go away.
Is there bruising?	Yes, and black eyes for 7-10 days, sometimes longer.
Are there numb areas?	Yes, in front of ears, on cheeks and around neck.
Are there stitches to be removed?	Stitches around ear removed around 5-7 days. Staples in hairline removed at 7-10 days.
Are there dressings?	Facial support garment.
How do I manage it?	Remove for hair wash or showering, otherwise wear it.
Can I shower?	Yes.
When can I see people without surgery being obvious?	When black eyes resolve, 10-14 days.
When can I drive?	Must be able to see clearly, be off strong painkillers and able to move comfortably, usually 7-14 days.
When can I go back to work?	Best to take 2 weeks minimum off if you can.
When can I exercise?	2-3 weeks after surgery.
When can I resume heavy lifting, etc?	2-3 weeks after surgery.
Things I should ring about	Pain not controlled by the medication. Vomiting or unable to take plenty of fluids. Excessive oozing from the wound or dressings. Fever over 38 degrees. Difficulty breathing well. Progressive swelling or redness in the area of surgery.