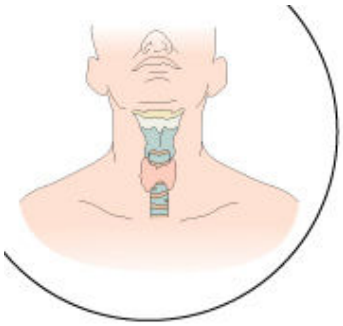
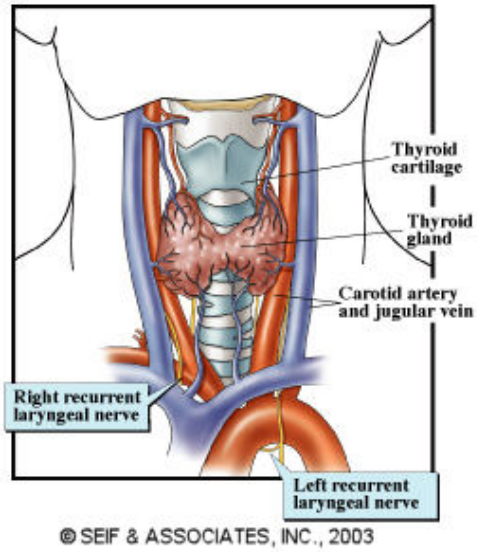
Thyroid Plasty, Chondrolaryngoplasty

Thyroid Plasty is a term used when surgery is used to improve the appearance of the neck. This is sometimes done to reduce the size of an enlarged or prominent Adam's apple. It is also done when there is extra skin on the neck and improved cosmetics are desired. Your surgeon can discuss the advantages and disadvantages of these procedures when compared to the commonly performed facelift. Many of the changes in our neck come as a normal consequence of aging. Loss of bone causes some of these changes and sometimes this plus a drooping of tissues causes a less defined more aged look. Sometimes your surgeon can do procedures to tighten up the tissues. Implants may be used to help when there has been bone loss. It can also be done for gender reassignment: male to female.



Depending on your findings, different procedures may be used. Your surgeon will discuss the indications, limitations, and possible complications of procedures.



RISKS

All surgeries carry some risk. The following are the most common risks of this procedure.

- **Infection**. This can usually be treated with antibiotics. These are medications that kill germs.
- **Damage to the nerves** that go to the voice box is also a risk. The least amount of damage causes hoarseness. The worst case can cause complete loss of voice. This would only happen if both nerves (right and left recurrent laryngeal) are damaged. If both nerves are damaged the vocal cords may become paralyzed. This blocks the airway making a tracheostomy necessary.
- **Bleeding** after surgery is a complication of almost all surgeries. It is of greater concern in the neck because a moderate amount of blood building up here can cut off breathing. This becomes an emergency procedure to stop it and restore breathing.

All surgeries carry risks, even when performed under the best of conditions and when performed by the best of hands. Consider surgery carefully, proceed with caution, and be fully informed.

Document Released: 01/24/2007 Document Re-Released: 03/16/2010
ExitCare® Patient Information ©2011 ExitCare, LLC.