



ENDOCRINE SURGICAL UNIT

Professor Stan Sidhu
www.drstansidhu.com

Neck exercises for thyroid and parathyroid surgery

**Royal North Shore Hospital
Mater Hospital
Sydney Adventist Hospital
Hornsby Hospital**



Professor Stan Sidhu PhD
FRACS

Phone: 02 9437 1731
Mobile: 0400 817 023
E-mail: stansidhu@nebsc.com.au
Website: www.drstansidhu.com

**Suite 202, Level 2, AMA House
69 Christie Street
St Leonards NSW 2065**

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AMA House
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Neck pain and stiffness is common following thyroid surgery. The neck is composed of vertebrae, ligaments that supply stability to the spine, and muscles that provide support and allow motion. The neck is very vulnerable because it is less protected than the rest of the spine, it supports the head, and it is very flexible. During your surgery the neck is extended (bent backwards) for the duration of the procedure which may be for several hours. This can cause muscle spasm which then leads to pain and tension in the neck. People with pre-existing neck problems such as cervical spondylosis or a previous whiplash injury are more susceptible. Exercising the neck muscles before and after your surgery significantly reduces the risk of muscle strain and subsequent neck strain. You should perform the following exercises FOR 10 COUNTS EACH, TWICE DAILY, FOR 10 DAYS BEFORE AND 10 DAYS AFTER your surgery. Exercises should be done until a gentle tension is felt. Do not bounce or the

muscle will tighten up more. It is important to return to the central position

NECK EXERCISES

1. Flexion/Rotation (sternocleidomastoid)



Tuck chin to chest. Rotate to left, then centre, then right. Repeat 10 times

2. Flexion/Extension (posterior neck muscles)



Tuck chin to chest (flexion). Feel stretch in back of neck, then push back (extension) as far as possible. Repeat 10 times

3. Lateral Side Bends (scalenes and upper trapezius)



Place head to right side. Can use right hand to add extra stretch. Lowering left shoulder will also intensify stretch. Repeat 10 times, then repeat on the other side.

4. Shoulder Shrugs (trapezius and levator scapulae)



Elevate shoulders to neck. Repeat 10 times