



## **Cumbria Advisory Thyroid Service**

### **INFORMATION SHEET**



## **THYROID SURGERY**

The most common reasons for surgery are

1. Thyroid Surgery is usually recommended if over activity has not been controlled with Anti-Thyroid medication (and the patient is unsuitable or unresponsive to Radio-Iodine treatment).
2. A Goitre or nodule is present and it causes problems with breathing or swallowing. Some Goitres contain hot nodules the cells of which are actually producing Thyroxine, this along with the normal production of Thyroid hormones will result in a Hyperthyroid condition therefore the nodule needs to be removed.

### **Subtotal Thyroidectomy**

This operation only removes the problem side of the gland and is a common operation to treat Goitres and benign nodules.

### **Thyroid Lobectomy**

This is the smallest operation performed on the thyroid gland and only removes one lobe (quarter of the gland). The surgery would be performed for conditions where the problem was confined to just a small section of the gland.

### **Total Thyroidectomy**

This operation is designed to remove all the thyroid gland. Many surgeons prefer to do this operation as medication to treat Hypothyroid (the condition that results from this operation) is easier to control.

- The Parathyroid glands are often damaged or removed in this operation causing problems with calcium levels. However doctors are now implanting the parathyroid gland into the neck tissue there by eliminating some of the problems previously encountered.

**C.A.T.S RECOMMENDS YOU ALWAYS SEEK YOUR DOCTORS ADVICE**

**Disclaimer**

***The purpose of this information leaflet is to help those suffering with thyroid disease. Whilst every effort is made to provide accurate information, it is impossible to ensure that the information given is relevant to every individual. No responsibility is accepted by CATS and it is recommended and essential, that if in any doubt about your condition, that you should always contact your doctor, specialist physician or surgeon to seek medical advice.***