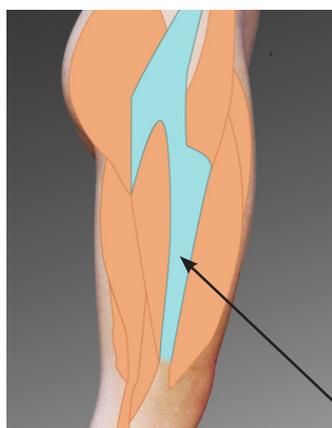


Static Sling Surgery

Patient information



The aim of static sling surgery is to improve the symmetry and function of the face rather than to create or restore movement.

The surgeon will take a small strip of fascia (strong connective tissue) from the iliotibial band on your outer thigh. They will insert this strip of fascia into your cheek to hold it up.

The sling will improve the position of your cheek and mouth by providing support for them. This will prevent soft tissue drooping from your cheek and lower eyelid and should make eating, drinking and talking easier.

Iliotibial band

Before the operation

You will discuss your suitability for static sling surgery with our multidisciplinary team that consists of specialist facial therapists, psychological therapists and plastic surgeons. The pre-operative nurses and anaesthetists will also see you to ensure you are fit for surgery before a date for your operation is booked. Please feel free to ask questions at any stage of this process.

Before your operation, you will have a series of assessments. This will include attending pre-assessment clinic and having photographs and/or videos taken in the medical photography department.

During the operation

You will go to theatre and have a general anaesthetic.

Your surgeon will first take the fascia from your thigh. They will then make an incision close to your ear to attach the top of the fascia with internal stitches. They will make another small incision along the skin crease between your nose and the corner of your mouth, called the nasolabial fold. They will attach the bottom part of the fascia here once the surgeon has decided on the best position for the cheek.



Incisions will follow your facial contours to give a natural effect after surgery

This surgery takes approximately two hours. You will usually stay in hospital for one night.

After the operation

When you wake up from the operation, there will be stitches and bandages in place. You may have a wound drain in place, if required.

You will be able to get up and walk around after surgery as long as you feel well enough. At first, you might find it painful to walk but this will soon ease.

You will stay in hospital for about a day. You will be able to go home once you are medically stable and able to wash and dress yourself safely.

You will be able to eat, drink and chew food normally after your operation.

Will I have any scars, swelling or pain after surgery?

Your scars will follow the natural contours of your face and should heal to fine white lines that will be barely visible.

With any surgery, there is likely to be some bruising, swelling, pain and discomfort. Before you leave, you will be assessed to make sure you have the right kind of pain relief medication so that you can return to normal fairly quickly.

Your facial swelling will be at its worst around three to four days after surgery. You can help to control the swelling by sleeping with your head well raised on pillows. If you are able to buy a special wedge pillow to sleep on for the first two weeks, this can help keep swelling to a minimum.

You will have two separate 3-4cm scars on your outer thigh. These should not cause you any problems with movement or walking although your leg may be sore for a few weeks. There should be no long-term effects on your leg function. Keep your leg moving by doing gentle knee and hip movements and take pain relief as needed to ensure that you are able to walk around freely.

Post-operatively

One to two weeks after your operation, you will have an appointment with your consultant for a wound review and for removal of your stitches or adhesive strips. You will also have an appointment at the outpatient dressing clinic to check that your wound is healing well.

Eventually, your facial sling may need tightening as it can stretch over time. However, this is a short procedure usually carried out under local anaesthetic and sedation.

**If you have any further questions please contact your consultant's secretary via switchboard:
01342 414000 ext. 4749**