

**Range Animal Hospital**  
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# Mandibulectomy: Rostral, Partial, or Complete

- The indication for mandibulectomy is for chronic osteomyelitis, fracture, and oral cancer. Preoperative evaluation of a cancer patient is necessary to allow for a positive outcome and to minimize the likelihood of a failed procedure and unwarranted trauma to the patient.
- Preoperative staging must include:
  - Tumor biopsy
  - Aspiration biopsy and/or surgical biopsy of the regional lymph nodes
  - CBC, serum biochemistry profile, and urinalysis
  - Radiographic exam of the oral cavity
  - Three-view radiography of the chest
  - Possible abdominal ultrasonography
  - Evaluation of successful surgical margins
  - The above information must be evaluated in light of the identified tumor, its location and size, and its known biologic behavior. In cases of malignant disease with invasion into the medullary canal, complete mandibulectomy is indicated, as the marrow provides no resistance to disease progression through the cavity.
- You are encouraged to obtain the preoperative database as an aid in coordinating the referral. Please communicate directly with Dr. Martinson, not our referral coordinator, concerning specifics.
- In cases where we will be doing the greater portion of the preoperative evaluation, we will attempt to coordinate an appropriate time with your client in which to obtain biopsy results [typically 3-4 days] along with the other evaluations prior to surgery. Preoperative evaluation appointments will generally be on Monday or Tuesday with possible surgery early in the following week.
- We will sit down with your client at the preoperative staging appointment and again prior to the operation to explain the procedure in detail and to answer any questions.
- We will discuss the benefits of radiation treatment and chemotherapy if such are indicated.
- Based on the procedure, postoperative care will likely include:
  - Frequent incision checks appropriate to the procedure; every few days until secure union is noted,
  - A 1 month checkup with careful oral and lymph node palpation,
  - Examination with oral and lymph node palpation every 3 months for 12 months,
  - Annual oral exam with palpation after that,
  - Based on tumor type and biologic behavior, chest radiographs may be indicated.
  - We will coordinate with your hospital the exact details.
- Typical hospital stays are 1-4 days, variable according to severity of disease and extent of surgery, and the need for postoperative nutritional support via feeding tube.
- Preoperative evaluations cost \$700-800, and surgeries are generally between \$1000 and \$2500. We will give your client a more exact estimate at their appointment.