

**Range Animal Hospital**  
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# Maxillectomy

- The indication for maxillectomy is almost certainly from oral cancer. In that light, the 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.

- 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 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 the severity of disease and extent of surgery.
- Preoperative evaluations cost \$700-800, and surgeries are generally between \$1000 and \$2000. We will give your client a more exact estimate at their appointment.