

Hypocalcemia

Hypocalcemia (low calcium levels) can be caused by damage to the parathyroid glands during surgery to the thyroid gland. The parathyroid glands play a major role in maintaining healthy calcium levels in the body.

We will monitor your child's calcium levels after surgery before they are sent home. Rarely, hypocalcemia can develop several days after surgery, so you should be aware of some of the symptoms of hypocalcemia in case they happen after you are sent home. Those symptoms can include:

- Numbness around the mouth
- Tingling of the fingers or toes
- Muscle cramps (called "tetany")
- Fast or irregular heart beat
- Seizures

If your child experiences any of these symptoms after they go home, please contact your family physician, pediatrician, or your community endocrinologist right away as you will require a blood test.

On-call SickKids Endocrinologist: 416-813-7500