

Head and Neck

HEAD AND NECK SURGERY					
Type of surgery	Is surgical prophylaxis required? ⁴	Prophylactic Antibiotic of choice	Penicillin allergy (NOT severe hypersensitivity reaction/anaphylaxis)	Severe hypersensitivity reaction/anaphylaxis to penicillins	Max duration of prophylaxis ²
Clean, benign; with no mucosal breach (e.g. Parotid or thyroid surgery)	Not recommended				
Clean, malignant; neck dissection	Should be considered	Co-amoxiclav	Cefuroxime + Metronidazole	Clindamycin	48-72 hours
Clean-contaminated/Contaminated	Recommended	Co-amoxiclav	Cefuroxime + Metronidazole	Clindamycin	48-72 hours
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider addition of Vancomycin if MRSA high risk/known colonisation ² National position statement recommends a maximum duration of prophylaxis of 48 hours for Head & Neck surgeries. 					