



# North Valley Surgical Associates, PC

General & Minimally Invasive Surgery

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## ENDOCRINE PROCEDURES

### WHAT IS THE ENDOCRINE SYSTEM?

Endocrine glands are the group of glands in the body that secrete hormones to evoke specific responses in other parts of the body. Some endocrine glands and their purposes are as follows:

**THYROID GLAND:** located in the front of the neck. It regulates the body's metabolic rate.

**PARATHYROID GLANDS:** four glands located behind the thyroid. They control calcium levels in the body.

**ADRENAL GLANDS:** two glands located on top of each kidney. They maintain salt levels in the blood, maintain blood pressure, help control kidney function and control fluid concentrations throughout the body. They are also the source of adrenaline released during stress.

**PANCREAS:** a single gland in the mid-abdomen. It controls blood sugar and glucose metabolism and helps to control other endocrine glands in the digestive tract.

### HOW ARE ENDOCRINE DISORDERS TREATED?

Endocrinologists and surgeons work closely together to provide a complete treatment plan for patients who are afflicted with endocrine disorders. Treatment is indicated if hormone production is impeded, hormones are overproduced, or a mass is present that could be malignant. Drug therapy is generally the first course of action, unless cancer is suspected. A fine needle biopsy may be performed to determine if a mass is malignant. If further surgery is indicated, your surgeon will determine what is best for your condition and will discuss the recommended procedure with you as well as what you should expect during recovery.

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