ENT Referral Pathway: Hoarse Voice in Adults

Hoarse voice

Any of the following, particularly aged > 40 years and > 6 weeks of symptoms:
• History of smoking
• Referred otalgia
• Dysphagia
• Stridor
• Neck examination abnormal e.g. enlarged nodes

Yes

History of:
• Occupational voice user
• Steroid inhaler use
• Recent respiratory tract infection

Check thyroid status

No

Consider:
Urgent referral to ENT under 2 week wait, fax 01225 821436

No, and after 4 weeks of persistent hoarse voice

Yes

Treatment:
• Voice care – provide patient information leaflet (see above)
• Optimum steroid dose and inhaler device and technique
• Hydration

Follow up 6-8 weeks or sooner if any worsening symptoms

Symptoms resolved?

No

Refer to ENT clinic

Yes

No further intervention

Healthcare you can Trust