

# PANENDOSCOPY

**This information sheet is designed to help you make an informed decision about panendoscopy. If you have any further questions, please discuss these with our staff before your operation.**

## WHAT IS A PANENDOSCOPY?

Panendoscopy is an examination which is done whilst you are under a general anaesthetic. During a panendoscopy the surgeon will examine the back of your throat (pharynx), voice box (larynx) and sometime the top section of your foodpipe (oesophagus). Sometimes the surgeon may also examine the back of your nose (nasopharynx) or windpipe (trachea).

## WHY AM I HAVING A PANENDOSCOPY?

There are two main reasons for needed this surgery:

1. Diagnostic; your doctor may be concerned about symptoms or findings during clinic and further examination is required and often biopsies are also taken. Sometimes one or both tonsils may also need to be removed if there are any abnormalities. See leaflet on Tonsillectomy.
2. Therapeutic; you may already have a diagnosis and you require surgery for the treatment of an abnormal area.

## HOW IS THE OPERATION PERFORMED?

The operation is performed under a general anaesthetic through the mouth. There are no cuts or stitches on the outside. The operation takes approximately 45minutes but you will be in the operating department one to two hours in total.

## WHEN CAN I GO HOME?

In the majority of cases patients can go home later the same day. If there are any increased risks or you live far away from hospital you may need to stay overnight.

## ARE THERE ANY RISKS?

Panendoscopy is a common but as with all operations does carry risks.

You may have a sore throat following surgery, but this should settle on its own without any treatment. If biopsies have been taken you may notice some blood in you saliva after your surgery but this should settle within a day.

The operation is done through your mouth and there is a small risk of damaging you teeth and causing minor trauma to your lips or gums. Your surgeon will use a gum guard during the surgery to reduce the risk. The risk is higher if you have any loose teeth, caps or crowns. Please let the surgeon and anaesthetist know before the operation.

During a panendoscopy your surgeon will examine you food pipe (oesophagus) with an oesophagoscope. There is a very small risk of causing a tear in the lining of oesophagus during the procedure. If this were to happen you would need to stay in hospital and receive antibiotics. You would not have anything to eat or drink and be fed by a tube via your nose into your stomach. You would stay in hospital for several days until the tear has healed. Often this does not require further surgery.

## WHEN WILL I HAVE THE RESULTS OF THE SURGERY?

The surgeon will be able to tell you the findings of the panendoscopy after the surgery when you have woken up from the anaesthetic. Any biopsies taken will be sent to the laboratory for further test which can take up to two weeks to complete. You will be given a follow up appointment to discuss the results.

## HOW LONG WILL I BE OFF WORK?

Depending on your job, you may be advised to stay off for a few days to rest your throat.

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Please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) if you require this leaflet in a different format, or would like to feedback your experience of the hospital. Email [ruh-tr.pals@nhs.net](mailto:ruh-tr.pals@nhs.net) or telephone 01225 825656.