

# MICROLARYNGOSCOPY

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

## WHAT IS A MICROLARYNGOSCOPY?

Microlaryngoscopy is an examination done under a general anaesthetic to examine your voice box (larynx). The surgeon will use a microscope to examine your voice box in detail and will also be able to take clinical photographs when necessary of any findings.

## WHY DO I NEED A MICROLARYNGOSCOPY?

There are two main reasons for needing this surgery:

1. Diagnostic; you may have symptoms or findings during clinic that require further examination and biopsies are taken of any abnormal areas. Sometimes further examination is required with a panendoscopy during the same procedure (see leaflet on panendoscopy).
2. Therapeutic; you may already have a diagnosis and you require surgery for the removal of an abnormal area. There are different methods for removing lesions or lumps from the voice box including; cold steel, microdebrider and LASER. Your surgeon will be able to explain which method they plan on using and this will depend on your diagnosis.

## 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 30 minutes 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.

## WHAT CAN I EXPECT FOLLOWING THE SURGERY?

It is normal to have a sore throat after the surgery and will settle after a few days. If biopsies have been from the vocal cords your surgeon may recommend that you rest your voice for 24-48 hours. You can eat and drink normally following the surgery.

## WHEN WILL I GET THE RESULTS?

Your surgeon will be able to tell you what they saw during the microlaryngoscopy when you wake up following the general anaesthetic.

If any biopsies are taken during the surgery these will be sent to the laboratory to be analysed. This can take up to two weeks and you will be given an appointment to receive the results and discuss any further treatment if required.

## ARE THERE ANY RISKS WITH THE SURGERY?

You may have a sore throat following surgery. This will settle on its own. If biopsies have been taken you may notice some blood in your saliva after your surgery but this should settle within a day. Your voice may be more hoarse following the surgery especially if biopsies have been taken.

The operation is done through your mouth and there is a small risk of damaging your 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.

## WHEN CAN I GO BACK TO WORK?

You may be required to take a few days off work to rest your voice depending on your job.

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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.