

Patient information

Direct Laryngoscopy

Your Ear, Nose and Throat surgeon has recommended that you have a direct laryngoscopy, which means an examination of the voice box.

The voice box is situated in your neck with your 'Adams apple' at the top of your windpipe. It is here that the sounds that we use for speech are generated.

Your surgeon has had a look down to the voice box in the Outpatient Department. However, he or she requires a better view with you asleep under a general anaesthetic. At the same time he/she may take some very small samples of the tissues in and around the voice box. These samples are sent to the pathologist for analysis. The laryngoscopy is all done through the mouth.

On the day of your operation you must not have anything to eat or drink for six hours prior to you going to the operating theatre. The laryngoscopy will take approximately 10 to 15 minutes.

You will wake in the recovery room. Your throat may be sore, if so request pain killing medicines.

You should rest your voice for at least two days. Try not to speak, but if you have to, speak in a normal voice and not in a whisper.

Allow for one week off work.

You will have a follow-up appointment in the Outpatients Department where your surgeon will discuss the results of your laryngoscopy, normally in two weeks' time.

If you require any further advice or information, please contact the ENT ward via the hospital switchboard on 01284 713000.

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