

Patient Information

Microlaryngoscopy

What is a microlaryngoscopy?

This operation is usually performed as a day procedure. You are anaesthetised and your voice box (larynx) is examined through a metal tube under magnification with a microscope. If there is an abnormality detected then this can either be biopsied, removed with micro-dissecting instruments, or ablated with a laser.

What is the operation like?

Before the operation you will see a member of the surgical team and the anaesthetist. The operation is performed with you asleep under a general anaesthetic for approximately 15 - 45 minutes. You will wake up in the recovery room, and once you have recovered from your anaesthetic you will be discharged home. Your surgeon will usually see you before you go and tell you the operative findings.

What is the recovery like?

It is common to have sore throat, and small amounts of some blood stained mucous can be coughed up over the first few days.

What can go wrong?

The surgery is usually safe and uncomplicated however it is important that you are aware of the risks of the procedure.

General complications such as nausea, vomiting, sore throat and drowsiness may occur as a result of the anaesthetic. Serious drug reactions related to the anaesthetic are very rare.

Specific problems all of which are rare:

- Permanent injury to the vocal cord
- Damage to the teeth, lips tongue or jaw can occur such as small chips or cuts
- Swelling of the airway causing significant difficulty with breathing. This can be serious and rarely requires a breathing tube to be inserted
- Significant ongoing bleeding requiring a repeat operation
- Lung problems or aspiration of saliva/blood causing pneumonia

Discharge Instructions:

DO

- Strictly rest your voice for 3 days. This means small amounts of normal talking only
- Keep well hydrated (6 extra glasses of water per day unless you are on a fluid restriction for another reason)
- Rest adequately & avoid excessive exertion
- Attend your review appointment

DO NOT

- Shout, sing, talk for long periods or whisper persistently as all these things strain the voice

How to get help:

If you are experiencing significant bleeding, or have any difficulties with breathing you can contact the ENT surgical team through the hospital switchboard on 9496 5000 or present to your Emergency department/call an ambulance on 000 for help.