



Partial Laryngectomy

A partial laryngectomy involves the surgical removal of part of the larynx (voice box). The larynx functions as a pathway for air to enter the lungs, works to prevent food, liquids, and saliva from falling into the lungs, and creates the sound of your voice.

Before Surgery

You will meet with both your surgeon and a speech language pathologist before surgery to assess your baseline and plan for post-surgical speech and swallow rehabilitation. You will receive specific instructions on when you need to stop eating and drinking, and your medication regimen before surgery.

A few days before your operation, the anesthesiologist will ask you a few questions so that they can create a comprehensive anesthesia plan based on your medical history. On the day of your surgery, you will arrive at the hospital a few hours before your scheduled procedure. The nurses, anesthesiologist, and head and neck surgery team will check in with you. If you have any last minute questions, this is a good time to ask them.

The Surgery

This procedure involves removal of part of the larynx. It is completed under general anesthesia, meaning you will be fully asleep.

It is usually performed to remove small cancers. Unlike total laryngectomies, it preserves the patient's voice and ability to swallow and does not require a permanent breathing tube in the patient's neck. The surgeon will likely discuss the possibility of proceeding with a complete laryngectomy based on the pathologist's evaluation during surgery.

The procedure can be completed through the neck with a surgical incision or using minimally invasive methods: transoral robotic surgery (TORS) or transoral laser microsurgery (TLM).



Please note that this information is intended for educational purposes. It does not replace consultation with your doctor, and it should not be interpreted as medical advice. We encourage you to speak to your health care provider if you have further questions or concerns regarding your medical care.

For more information scan this code or visit:

<https://thancguide.org/cancer-basics/treatments/surgery/ablative/laryngectomy/>

Risks Associated with a Partial Laryngectomy

- Bleeding
- Infection
- Salivary fistula
- Blood clots
- Aspiration

After Surgery

The duration and course of surgical recovery is case-dependent, but is typically a few weeks. How long it takes to return to “normal life” depends on the outcome of the surgery and the extent of disease.

Once the head and neck surgery team is confident you are ready to be discharged, a discharge planning team will work with you and your family to determine the best route forward.

While you may be able to go straight home with or without visiting nurses, you could also be advised to go to a rehabilitation center first if needed.



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