

Patient Education

Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery Center



Laryngectomy

A **laryngectomy** is the surgical removal of the larynx or voice box. When the larynx is removed, your surgeon closes off the top end of the windpipe. There is no longer any connection in the throat between the windpipe and your mouth. Two important things will change for you. First, breathing must be done through a small, round opening (stoma) at the base of the neck. Second, you will be unable to speak through your mouth.

Stoma

Respiratory therapists and nurses will help you and/or family members to care for your stoma. Your stoma will have stitches around the edges. When you cough your secretions will come out through the stoma.

Speaking

You will be unable to speak through your throat and mouth after your laryngectomy. Before your surgery, a speech therapist will speak with you about special ways you will be able to learn to talk.

Support Options

The speech pathologist or our clinic nurses can arrange for you to speak with a patient who has had this procedure, and will give you information about a support group called the Laryngectomy Club.

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Questions?

Your questions are important. Call your doctor or health care provider if you have questions or concerns.

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