

Patient Information

Microlaryngoscopy and Excision of Vocal Fold Lesions

What is Microlaryngoscopy?

Microlaryngoscopy is a type of laryngeal (voice box) surgery performed under **general anaesthetic** to closely examine and treat problems affecting your **vocal cords**. A microscope is used for a detailed view of the vocal folds, and delicate instruments or a laser may be used to remove lesions such as a **vocal fold polyp** or **cyst**.

This is a **day-case procedure**, meaning most people go home the same day.

Why Do I Need This Operation?

You may be offered microlaryngoscopy to:

- Remove a **vocal cord lesion** (e.g. polyp or cyst)
- Improve **hoarseness**, **voice quality**, or **vocal fatigue**
- Confirm a diagnosis via **biopsy**
- Relieve **breathing or swallowing symptoms** (in rare cases)

Lesions on the vocal folds can interfere with their vibration, affecting your ability to produce a clear voice.

What Happens During the Procedure?

- You will be given a **general anaesthetic** (you'll be fully asleep).
- A rigid tube called a **laryngoscope** is placed through your mouth to access your voice box – no cuts are made on the outside.
- A microscope is used for magnified viewing.
- The lesion is removed carefully with fine instruments or a laser, depending on the type and location.
- The procedure usually takes **30–60 minutes**.

What Are the Risks?

Microlaryngoscopy is a safe and commonly performed procedure, but as with all surgery, there are some risks:

Common (temporary) side effects:

- **Sore throat** or mouth for a few days

- **Hoarseness** or a weak voice while healing
- **Mild bruising or swelling** in the throat

Less common risks:

- **Bleeding**
- **Infection**
- **Damage to teeth or gums** (rare, as teeth may be protected during the procedure)
- **Scarring of the vocal cords**, which may affect voice quality (rare)

Your surgeon will discuss your specific risks in more detail before the operation.

Recovery and Aftercare

- Most patients go home **the same day**.
- **Voice rest** is usually advised for a few days — your surgeon or speech therapist will guide you on how long.
- You may be referred for **voice therapy** as part of your recovery.
- Avoid **whispering**, throat clearing, smoking, and straining your voice during healing.
- Full recovery of the voice may take **several weeks**, depending on the lesion and your voice use.

When Should I Seek Help?

Contact your hospital or GP if you experience:

- Difficulty breathing
- Ongoing or heavy bleeding
- High fever or signs of infection
- Severe or worsening pain

Follow-Up

You will usually have a follow-up appointment to:

- Review your healing
- Discuss any biopsy results (if a sample was taken)
- Plan any further treatment or voice therapy

Further Information

If you have any concerns or need further advice, please contact your healthcare provider.