

Patient Information

Microlaryngoscopy and Division of Anterior Laryngeal Web

What is an Anterior Laryngeal Web?

An **anterior laryngeal web** is a thin band of tissue between the **vocal cords**, usually located at the **front (anterior)** part of the voice box (larynx). It may be present from birth (**congenital**) or develop later due to **injury, infection**, or previous surgery.

This web can affect the **voice** (causing it to sound weak, hoarse, or high-pitched), and in some cases may cause **breathing difficulties**.

What is Microlaryngoscopy and Division of the Web?

This is a surgical procedure done under **general anaesthetic** to:

- Closely examine your voice box using a microscope
- **Divide (cut through)** the web using delicate instruments or a laser
- Restore normal vocal cord movement and improve voice or breathing

Why Do I Need This Operation?

You may be recommended this surgery if:

- Your voice is **affected** (e.g. hoarseness, limited pitch range, vocal fatigue)
- You are experiencing **breathing difficulties** or noisy breathing (stridor)
- The web is **affecting vocal cord movement** or closing

The procedure aims to improve the function of the vocal cords by carefully separating the web and preventing it from growing back.

What Does the Procedure Involve?

- You will be given a **general anaesthetic** (you will be asleep).
- A rigid tube (laryngoscope) is gently inserted through your mouth to access your voice box — **no external cuts** are made.
- A microscope is used to provide a detailed view.
- The web is divided using **fine instruments** or a **laser**.
- In some cases, a small **stent (spacer)** may be placed temporarily to help keep the vocal cords apart during healing and prevent the web from reforming.

The operation typically takes around **60 minutes**.

What Are the Risks?

Micro-laryngoscopy and web division is generally safe, but like all surgery, there are some risks:

Common (usually temporary):

- **Sore throat** or mild discomfort for a few days
- **Hoarseness** or voice changes while healing
- **Swelling** or mild bruising in the throat

Less common:

- **Bleeding**
- **Infection**
- **Reformation of the web**, which may require repeat surgery
- **Scarring**, which could affect the voice
- **Injury to teeth, gums, or lips** from the instruments (rare)

If a **stent** is used, there may be additional monitoring and a second procedure to remove it.

Recovery and Aftercare

- Most patients go home **the same day** or after an overnight stay, depending on the case.
- You may need to follow a period of **voice rest** (usually a few days).
- Your surgeon will advise if any **dietary restrictions** or care around a stent are needed.
- **Voice therapy** may be recommended after surgery to support healing and voice recovery.
- Full recovery may take **several weeks**, especially if a stent is used.

When to Seek Medical Advice

Contact your doctor or hospital if you experience:

- **Breathing difficulty**
- **Ongoing or heavy bleeding**
- **High fever** or signs of infection
- **Severe or worsening pain**

Follow-Up

You will have a **follow-up appointment** to:

- Monitor healing
- Remove the stent (if used) in a further operation
- Discuss voice recovery and further treatment or therapy if needed

Conclusion

- An anterior laryngeal web is a band of tissue affecting your voice or breathing.
 - Surgery is done under general anaesthetic to divide the web and improve function.
 - Recovery includes voice rest, possible voice therapy, and follow-up care.
 - Risks are low, but reformation of the web can occasionally occur.
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Further Information

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