



Timothy Thomason, M.D.
Constance Zhou, M.D.

Metroplex ENT & Allergy
Otolaryngology—Head & Neck Surgery
(972)253-4280

PATIENT INFORMATION ON PANENDOSCOPY

What is a panendoscopy?

Panendoscopy refers to an endoscopic surgical procedure that is frequently performed by ENT physicians. The procedure is performed under general anesthesia and takes about 15 minutes. It includes 3 distinct procedures: **direct laryngoscopy, esophagoscopy, and bronchoscopy**. Laryngoscopy is performed by placing a cylindrical scope via the mouth to examine the lower part of the throat, including the larynx. This is often done in order to do a biopsy or for removal of an abnormal growth on the vocal cords or another part of the larynx. Other procedures on the larynx can also be performed, such as vocal cord injection for treatment of vocal cord paralysis. Esophagoscopy is performed by placing a different scope via the mouth and passing it into the upper part of the esophagus. Bronchoscopy is performed by passing a small flexible fiberoptic scope into the trachea to inspect the trachea and the bronchi of the lungs.

What are the benefits of panendoscopy?

This procedure allows a detailed inspection of the upper aerodigestive tract to aid in diagnosis and treatment of various diseases involving these organs. It also allows for removal or biopsy of benign or malignant abnormalities for any of the areas that are examined.

What are the risks of panendoscopy?

The procedure is very safe but there are some risks to consider as with any type of medical procedure. In this case, there is a possibility of damage to the lips/teeth/gums because the scopes are inserted via the mouth. If you have any loose or diseased teeth, you must inform your surgeon and anesthesiologist in the pre op area. Minor abrasions or bruises of the mouth tissues will heal within a few days. It is very rare to have any significant dental damage. It is also possible to have hoarseness when vocal cord surgery is performed. In some cases voice rest may be necessary for 1-2 weeks to allow the vocal cord surgical site to heal. Puncture of the esophagus or trachea is potentially serious but it is extremely rare.

What should I expect after panendoscopy?

You may have a sore throat for the first few days. You should eat foods that are soft and easy to swallow. Any pain can be controlled with over-the-counter pain medicine for the first few days. Most patients can return to work or school the following day.



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When should I call my ear, nose, and throat doctor?

You should call our office if you have severe pain, chest pain, inability to swallow, difficulty breathing, or any other concerns.