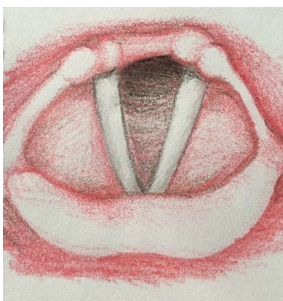


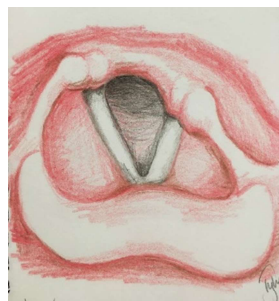
## Vocal Cord Palsy

Vocal cord palsy means a is paralysed vocal cord. This happens when one (or both) vocal cords stop working. It can be temporary or permanent and makes the voice sound breathy, whispery or rough. It may also affect your swallowing causing you to cough when eating or drinking. This is because the vocal cords may not completely close to stop things entering your airway during swallowing as they should.

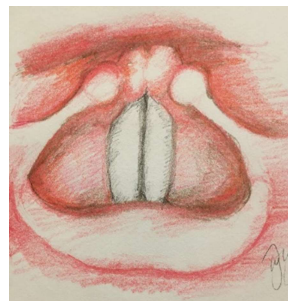
The vocal cords:



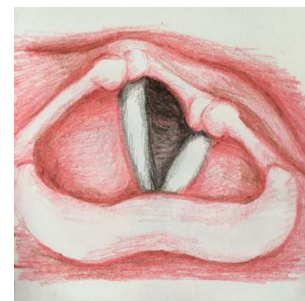
Normal Breathing



Breathing with One paralysed vocal cord



Normal Voicing



Voicing with One paralysed vocal cord

## Diagnosis

Vocal cord palsy is suspected when the voice suddenly changes and becomes soft or whispery, often after surgery, stroke or a virus. Diagnosis is by assessment by an ENT via a camera through the nose to look at the voice box while you are speaking. A Speech Pathologist may also be present to assess voice and swallow function.

## Causes

The main causes of vocal cord palsy are virus, stroke, neck surgery, intubation (insertion of a breathing tube for surgery or emergency), injury to the larynx and cardiac surgery but other causes are possible.

## Treatment

Vocal fold palsy can recover in many cases and therapy with a Speech Pathologist can help manage your voice and swallowing, prevent further injury to your larynx and make the most of your voice until this happens. Sometimes surgery is required to move the vocal cord into a better position if it has not recovered after around 12 months. This would be discussed with your ENT surgeon.