Pharyngoscopy, Laryngoscopy, Upper Oesophagoscopy

Turnberg Building
Ear, Nose & Throat
0161 206 4756
What is a pharyngoscopy, laryngoscopy, upper oesophagoscopy?

The pharynx, larynx and upper oesophagus are all parts of the throat. You have probably had a small camera put in to your nose to have a look in to your throat whilst in the ENT clinic.

It can sometimes be difficult to get a good view and sometimes the doctor might want to get a closer look and possibly take a small sample of anything unusual that they might find. To do this, the doctor will pass a camera in to your throat again but this time you will be asleep in theatre (under a general anaesthetic).

Are there any risks/complications?

Dental damage
There is a very small chance that an instrument used during the procedure could cause some minor damage to your lips, teeth and gums. The surgeon is always very careful and every effort is made to avoid this but you can help us to prevent any damage by telling us about any loose teeth, fillings, caps or crowns you might have.

Sore throat / hoarse voice
After the procedure, it is very normal to have some discomfort in your throat and for your throat to be a little croaky. This should get better on its own after a few days but you can help it by drinking plenty of fluids and taking simple pain relief.

Perforation
There is a very small risk that the procedure could cause a small tear in your throat. It is very rare that this happens but if it does, you will need to stay in hospital and not eat or drink anything for a few days while the tear heals. You will be given liquid food through a very small tube that goes in through your nose and straight in to your stomach.
After the procedure

You can usually go home around two hours after the procedure as long as you are feeling well. You will need someone to pick you up and stay with you overnight in case you feel unwell after the anaesthetic. You should not drive for at least 24 hours after the anaesthetic.

You will be given an appointment to be seen in the ENT clinic in the weeks after the procedure. If a biopsy was taken during the procedure, the results of this will be given to you during this appointment.

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For further information on this leaflet, it’s references and sources used, please contact 0161 206 4756

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This is a teaching hospital which plays an important role in the training of future doctors. The part patients play in this process is essential to make sure that we produce the right quality doctors for all of our futures. If at any time you would prefer not to have students present please inform the doctor or nurses and this will not affect your care in anyway.

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