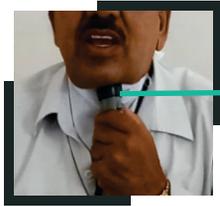


- **Artificial Larynx/ Electrolarynx:** These electronic devices help in speaking after removal of larynx (voice box). However the quality of voice will be mechanical and less natural. But it will help such individuals to communicate.



Artificial larynx/
Electrolarynx

- Other methods such as **esophageal speech** to restore voice after surgery without device in absence of voice box (larynx)

Facilities available at All India Institute of Speech and Hearing

AIISH has state of the art equipment and technology for the rehabilitation of individuals who had undergone Laryngectomy.

Voice clinic at AIISH provides services in testing different voice disorders including laryngectomy patients and rehabilitate them through voice therapy. For patients who have undergone laryngectomy, SLP provides voice/ speech therapy to help them speak using different strategies.

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LARYNGECTOMY

Voice after the cancer of Larynx!!!



DEPARTMENT OF PREVENTION OF COMMUNICATION DISORDERS

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF SPEECH AND HEARING

(An Autonomous Institute under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India)

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Cancer can affect any part of the body. Similarly it can affect the voice box or the larynx which is located in our throat. So in conditions of laryngeal cancer. Laryngectomy is one of the option for management of the same.

What is Laryngectomy?

Laryngectomy is a surgery conducted to remove the larynx (voice box) either partially or completely to prevent spreading of cancer to other body parts. When the larynx or voice box is removed, voice is lost and breathing pattern changes.

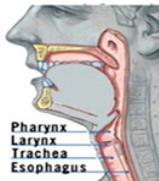
Indications for Laryngectomy

- Cancer of larynx (tumour)
- Some injury to the larynx
- Patients who do not respond to radiation or chemo therapy
- Large tumours in neck region.

Consequences of Laryngectomy

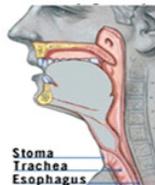
- The vocal cords in larynx produce sound. Therefore, when larynx is removed during surgery, people cannot speak normally anymore
- After the surgery, smelling and blowing through nose is no longer possible in the usual way.
- A hole (stoma) is made in the trachea (neck region), to allow the person to breath in the absence of larynx. This increases the risk of mucus in the airways and causes respiratory infections

Pre-laryngectomy



Can ventilate through nose and mouth

Post-laryngectomy



Can only ventilate via stoma



Stoma (hole in the neck)

How can we identify cancer in the larynx early?

- Abnormal lump in the throat or neck
- Constant cough
- Sore throat
- Changes in voice, such as hoarseness
- Pain while swallowing
- Choking on food
- Loss of weight

Causes of laryngeal cancer

- Regular usage of following can increase the risk of cancer by more than 50%.
 - Active and passive smoking
 - Use of tobacco
 - Consumption of alcohol.
 - Exposure to certain chemicals in the workplace, such as paint fumes and some chemicals in metalworking.

Hence cancer can be prevented to a large extent by avoiding these and choosing healthy lifestyle.

Specialist involved in treatment

- **ENT doctor:** The identification of cancer and its treatment is done by ENT doctor. After the medical/surgical treatment is completed patient is referred to speech language pathologist.
- **Speech Language Pathologist (SLP):** Provides voice/ speech therapy to use alternate ways of speaking called as alaryngeal speech through: