

# LARYNGECTOMY

**1. Definition:** Complete removal of the larynx. A complete separation of the digestive tract and the respiratory tract is the result.

**2. Indications:**

Primary or secondary malignant tumours arising in the larynx or neighbourhood where larynx preservation is not a therapeutic option (e.g. advanced squamous cell carcinoma T3, T4; advanced non-epithelial malignancies, metastasis, etc).

Others: space occupying, obstructing lesions (osteomas, chondroma, myoma etc).

Trauma (e.g. severe persistent obstruction of airways, severe persistent aspiration)

Chronic aspiration (e.g. stroke, other neurological diseases, necrosis of laryngeal framework, e.g. radiation, infection)

**3. Pre-operative assessment:**

Institutional requirements:

Multidisciplinary management (ENT-HNS, Oncology, Radiology, voice and psychosocial rehabilitation etc)

ICU

Professional expertise (subspecialty postgraduate training, adequate workload)

**4. Method/Operative Technique:**

Technique of tracheostomy, skin incision, suturing of hypopharynx, +/- neck dissection

Type of voice prosthesis (primary or secondary voice rehabilitation)

Wound drainage

Antibiotics, analgesics

Post-operative ICU (Intensive care unit)

Duration of hospitalization

Insertion of feeding tube or PEG

Duration of parenteral nutrition

**5. Information/Consent:**

Description of the surgical procedure

Alternative therapeutic strategies (organ preservation, prognosis)

Complications (intra or post-operative bleeding, need of blood transfusion, haematoma, seroma, salivary fistula, respiratory and wound infection, dysphagia, aphagia, aspiration, stenosis, canule displacement)

Sequelae (permanent tracheostomy, change or loss of speech ability, smell, taste, laughter, weight lifting, cosmetic changes, etc)

Rehabilitation (speech, swallowing, psycho-social, occupational)

Patient support group

**6. Outcome Measures:**

Cure of the disease - survival

Quality of life (speech and swallowing rehabilitation, psychosocial rehabilitation, employment, cosmetic results.)

Complications (wound infections, salivary fistula, hypopharyngeal stenosis etc)

Availability of technical devices and support