

**Surgical Procedure: DIRECT MICROSCOPIC LARYNGOSCOPY**

Dr. Ulrich has determined that it is necessary to perform an examination of your larynx or “voice box”. This procedure is called direct microscopic laryngoscopy, and involves the insertion of a special tube or scope into the mouth. Usually, medication or anesthesia is given to make the patient as comfortable as possible during this procedure. Dr. Ulrich may have to take a specimen of tissue or a “biopsy” from any abnormalities he may find. This procedure is generally not a treatment for any disease. However, Dr. Ulrich feels that it is important to your well-being that the information from the examination be obtained. Complications from direct microscopic laryngoscopy are very uncommon, but they do sometimes occur. Because of this fact, Dr. Ulrich can make no guarantee as to the result that might be obtained from this procedure. You may expect some discomfort in your throat and voice box for a day or two after this procedure.

Some of the complications of direct microscopic laryngoscopy are:

Temporary and permanent hoarseness: bleeding from the voice box into the chest: holes or perforations in the throat and voice box; damage to the mouth and throat: stiff neck: and allergic or other bad reactions to one or more of the substances used during the procedure.

Some of the complications of direct microscopic laryngoscopy can cause prolonged illness, permanent disability, and the need for major surgery. Very, very rarely, some of the complications can even cause death. Furthermore, there may be alternatives to this procedure available to you, such as other types of diagnostic tests. However, these alternative methods have their own risk of complications and a varying degree of success. Therefore, in those patients in whom direct laryngoscopy is indicated, this procedure may provide the patient with the best chance of successful diagnosis and the lowest risk of complications.

# What to expect after DIRECT MICROSCOPIC LARYNGOSCOPY

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## **Activity & Diet**

Resume diet as tolerated and drink plenty of fluids. Your body needs extra rest after any surgery, so take it easy for a day or two then gradually resume normal activity. Often after Direct Microscopic Laryngoscopy, voice rest is advised. Dr. Ulrich will determine how much voice rest, if any, is necessary and will advise accordingly.

## **Pain**

Sore throat and mild discomfort when swallowing are usually minimal. If you do experience excessive pain, call our office. In most cases Tylenol (Acetaminophen) may be taken for any minor discomfort. Warm salt-water gargles are sometimes soothing.

## **Follow-up Appointment**

A follow-up appointment is necessary 1-2 weeks after the procedure. If an appointment has not been made, please contact our office.

## **Questions or Problems**

If questions or problems arise during normal business hours, please do not hesitate to call the office at (810) 695-3766. For post-surgical medical issues after normal business hours, call the office at (810) 695-3766 and follow the prompts to be connected with Dr. Ulrich. If unable to connect through the office, contact Genesys information at (810) 606-5000 to have Dr. Ulrich paged.