

Duke Asthma, Allergy and Airway Center

Consent for Flexible Laryngoscopy

Procedure

The purpose of the flexible laryngoscopy is to detect causes of voice problems, to evaluate difficulty in swallowing, and to discover the causes of throat pain. It is also used to detect injuries to the throat, narrowing of the throat, and obstructions or masses in the airway.

The doctor will use in ^a thin, flexible fiber-optic instrument (laryngoscope) to look at your throat. A local anesthetic will be applied inside your nose. The laryngoscope is put into your nose and then threaded down your throat. The doctor may have you make certain sounds to evaluate the vocal cords.

The test will take approximately 30 minutes.

Discomforts and Risks

Flexible laryngoscopy is a very safe procedure but does have a very slight risk of triggering a life-threatening blockage of the airway. This risk is increased if you already have a partially blocked airway due to tumors, polyps, or severe inflammation of the tissues at the back of the throat. Should a blockage occur, you will receive racemic epinephrine nebulized breathing treatment to reduce any swelling. If a biopsy was taken, there is a slight risk of prolonged bleeding, infection or perforation of the airway.

The procedure may make you feel like gagging. A topical gel anesthetic will be given to suppress the gag reflex. The anesthetic may taste bitter or temporarily impair the swallowing reflex.

Your signature below indicates that you have read the above information and understand the purpose of the test and the associated risks. Please feel free to ask any questions concerning the laryngoscopy prior to the procedure.

With this knowledge, I agree to having this procedure performed on me

Patient name _____

Patient or guardian signature _____

Date _____

Witness _____

