

# CANCER OF THE LARYNX

Most cases of cancer of the throat as well as 90% of cancers of the head and neck are due to known factors. For this reason, prevention is possible through lifestyle changes aimed at avoiding exposure to carcinogens.

## MAIN SYMPTOMS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF CANCER OF THE LARYNX

- Persistent hoarseness of voice installed progressively
- Difficulty in swallowing
- Persistent throat pain or neck pain that occurs during swallowing
- Pain in the ear
- Signs of tumors in the neck

## MAIN CAUSES FOR DEVELOPING CANCER OF THE LARYNX

1. Smoking: More than 95% of patients who suffer from lung cancer are smokers. Smoking is an aggravating factor in the development of cancer of the throat it creates mutations in the cells of the mucosa of the respiratory system.

The chances of a smoker developing cancer of the throat are increased not only by how much they smoke but also by the total length of time they have smoked.

2. Alcohol: Alcohol is a factor that favors the development of cancer of the larynx. In fact, alcohol acts in synergy with tobacco and magnifies its negative effects.

People who smoke and drink alcohol are much more likely to develop cancer of the larynx.

3. The human papilloma virus: This virus (HPV) has been associated with the genesis of cancer of the larynx.

4. Asbestos: Asbestos is considered an aggravating factor in the development of cancer of the throat, as well as other types of cancer.

5. The gastro-esophageal reflux disease: The disease is characterized by the return of acidic stomach contents into the esophagus and sometimes in the throat, is thought to contribute to the genesis of cancer of the larynx.





## DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF CANCER OF THE LARYNX

It must be emphasized that early diagnosis  
of the cancer of the larynx  
is the key to treatment.

Cancer of the  
larynx is curable in more than  
70% of cases if diagnosed early.

The diagnosis is made by an otorhinolaryngologist who must perform an endoscopy of the larynx i.e. to place camera either through the nose or mouth to view any damage to the larynx. Then if there is damage, the patient will be brought to the operating room where with the assistance of the microscope will be checked with greater accuracy and a sample tissue will be taken for biopsy. If the damage is small then it possibly may be removed by laser. It is often necessary to undergo radiation either in addition to laser treatment or as the only treatment.

If the damage is in an advanced stage it may be necessary to remove the whole larynx. In this case special valve is placed in the larynx to enable the patient to speak.

Individuals who experience changes in the voice, persistent hoarseness, should seek advice from their doctor. This becomes even more compelling if there are risk factors such as smoking and high consumption.



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