

Pharyngoscopy



Information for patients

Ear Nose and Throat



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SHEFFIELD TEACHING HOSPITALS NHS FOUNDATION TRUST



What is the pharynx?

The pharynx is the medical term for the upper part of the swallowing passageway.

What is a pharyngoscopy?

This is an operation which allows us to look directly at your pharynx with a specially shaped metal tube.

Do I need the procedure?

When patients report problems with their throat, we will on occasions need to examine the pharynx in some detail. This is done to see if the pharynx is healthy or to establish the cause of any problem.

How is the procedure performed?

Firstly, we will give you a general anaesthetic. This allows your throat to relax and makes it easier to pass instruments down it that enable us to look closely at your pharynx. This will also allow us to take biopsies (small samples of the tissue) if we need to.

Are there any complications from the surgery?

Usually the procedure is straightforward and only causes a sore throat for 2-3 days afterwards.

However, as with any operation, there can always be complications. The main complications from pharyngoscopy will include:

- damage to teeth
- bleeding
- breathing difficulty
- pharyngeal perforation

How long will I be in hospital?

Usually one night. You are normally admitted to hospital on the day of your surgery, have your operation and go home the day after.

Will I need to take time off work?

We would usually give patients who have this procedure a sick note for 2 days. This allows the anaesthetic to work its way out of the system. If we have taken a biopsy, you may need to rest your voice. This means no whispering, no shouting and talking as little as possible.

If a biopsy has been taken, we will normally advise you to have 2 weeks off work.

Is there anything to look out for?

If you experience any of the following in the first few days following surgery please contact the Ear, Nose and Throat Department;

- a raised temperature or fever
- difficulty breathing

Who should I contact if I have any concerns?

If you have any concerns, or would like more information, please feel free to discuss these with your Consultant, the staff of the ENT Department at the Royal Hallamshire Hospital or your own GP.

Ward I1

- **0114 271 2504**

ENT Outpatient Department

- **0114 271 2347**
Monday to Friday, 8.00am - 5.30pm



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