Laryngoscopy Encyclopedia Article

Laryngoscopy

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Laryngoscopy

Laryngoscopy is a diagnostic method that allows the larynx to be seen directly during an examination. In one method, a flexible tube with a fiber-optic device is threaded through the nasal passage and down into the throat. The other method uses a rigid viewing tube passed directly from the mouth through the throat and into the larynx.

Both methods make use of a light source and a lens that are attached to a viewing tube. The endoscopic viewing tube may also be equipped to suction debris or remove material for biopsy.

Laryngoscopy procedures are performed in a hospital, using a local anesthetic spray to ease pain and suppress the gag reflex. Patients should not eat for several hours before the test. After the procedure is over, soothing liquids or lozenges can ease any temporary sore throat.

This procedure carries no serious risks, although the patient may have a sore throat or cough up small amounts of blood until the irritation subsides.

If a tumor or an object lodged in the tissue is discovered during the laryngoscopy, it would either be removed or described for further medical attention.