**Are there any risks?**

As with any operation, there is a slight chance that your treatment may not go according to plan. The following general risks may occur:

- Injury to nearby tissues and excessive bleeding
- Infection, requiring antibiotics
- Allergic reaction to drugs or anaesthetic
- Breathing difficulties
- A clot in the leg called a DVT (deep vein thrombosis) and/or a blood clot in the lungs called a PE (pulmonary embolus)

Very occasionally a small tear can happen in the oesophagus. It is dangerous to eat or drink as this may cause pain, infection, or lead to other serious complications. If a tear has occurred, it may be necessary to feed a tube through your nose, throat and into your stomach until the tear has healed or after further surgery to repair the tear. This is a rare complication of this operation which will delay you going home.

**When will I get the results?**

We will invite you to come in for an outpatient appointment in two to three weeks to discuss the results and any further treatment if necessary.

**Contact details**

If you experience any problems after you go home, or for further information, please contact:

Blake Ward 01823 342023/3023
Laryngoscopy, pharyngoscopy and oesophagoscopy
We hope this leaflet will help you to understand a little more about your procedure and what happens after surgery. If you have any further questions, please don’t hesitate to ask a member of the nursing or medical staff who will be happy to help you.

What is a laryngoscopy, pharyngoscopy and oesophagoscopy?
The aim of this procedure is to examine your:
• Voice box (Laryngoscopy)
• Throat (Pharyngoscopy)
• Gullet - where your food goes down when you swallow (Oesophagoscopy)
You may have one or all of these examined during the same surgical procedure and we will discuss this with you beforehand.
Sometimes, other procedures are carried out during the examination in order to treat the cause of your symptoms.

What happens before my admission to hospital?
You will usually be invited to attend a pre-operative assessment clinic before you come into hospital. A nurse will see you in this clinic. We will ask you to complete a health questionnaire. The assessment will include tests for blood pressure, pulse, urine and possibly a heart trace (ECG). We will also record your height and weight.

What happens on the day of admission?
On the day of your admission, please ring the hospital (the telephone number is printed on your admission letter) to confirm that there is a bed for you, as occasionally it may be needed for an emergency.

What do I have to do to prepare?
We ask you not to eat anything for six hours before your operation, and not to drink anything for two hours beforehand. This is to prevent you being sick during the procedure.
To reduce the risks of infection, please have a bath or shower before coming into hospital. Do not use talcum powder or deodorant. Once in hospital we will ask you to change into a hospital gown. So that the procedure may be carried out as safely as possible, we ask you to remove all jewellery (except your wedding ring which can be taped to your finger), and any glasses, contact lenses, hearing aids or dentures that you wear.

What does the procedure involve?
You will be taken to the operating theatre in a chair or on a trolley or you may walk.
The examination is carried out under a general anaesthetic, so you will be asleep throughout the procedure.
The surgeon may take samples of tissue to be sent to the laboratory for analysis. If so, we will advise you of this afterwards.

What happens after my operation?
After your operation you will be taken to the recovery unit, where a nurse will take your blood pressure and pulse at regular intervals. Once you are properly awake, you will return to your ward, where you will continue to be carefully monitored.
Your throat may feel a bit sore at first. This can be treated with painkillers if necessary.
You will not be allowed to eat or drink for a few hours after the operation. The nurses will advise you when it is safe to do so. If for any reason you are not allowed to eat or drink overnight after the operation, we will attach you to a fluid drip to prevent you from becoming dehydrated.
If you needed treatment to your voice box, you may be advised to rest your voice afterwards. This means that you must not talk, or even whisper for 24 to 48 hours. You can communicate to the staff by writing down what you need, or by using a picture board to show us what you want.
If the surgeon had to stretch your gullet, you will have strict instructions not to eat or drink until you have had a x-ray to check that it is safe to do so.