



## **Phonemicsurgery**

### **What Is It?**

Phonemicsurgery is procedure performed on the vocal folds under the microscope with or without lasers. It is done for different conditions of the larynx (voice box), such as vocal fold lesions, biopsy, injection, and scarring resulting in narrowing of the airway.

### **What Does It Entail?**

Phonemicsurgery is performed under general anesthesia, which means you will be completely asleep throughout the procedure. A breathing tube will be inserted by your anesthesiologist to facilitate your breathing. Your surgeon will put in a metal scope to keep your mouth open in order to access your vocal folds. A microscope will then be brought into the surgical field to allow magnification of the area of interest and your surgeon can carry out the intended procedure.

This surgery is typically a same day procedure without an overnight hospital stay. However, this depends on your general health status and the specific type of procedure you are having. Also depending on the type of procedure you are having, you may need to exercise some form of vocal rest after surgery. You can resume your normal diet following the procedure unless indicated otherwise by your surgeon. Pain is fairly minimal after the surgery and can be usually controlled by regular Tylenol.

### **What Are The Potential Complications?**

As with surgery anywhere in the body, there is a 1-2% chance of complications associated with surgery of the vocal folds. These include, but not limited to,

- Injuries to your tooth or teeth;
- Swelling and/or cuts of your lips and/or the inside of your mouth/throat;
- Temporary or permanent tongue numbness;
- Temporary or permanent tongue weakness;
- Change in taste;
- Swelling of the bottom of your mouth or chin;
- Jaw discomfort, pain, tightness, or dislocation;
- Neck discomfort or pain;
- Temporary difficulty with swallowing;
- Bleeding;
- Persistent or worsening hoarseness after surgery;
- Possibility of additional surgeries on the vocal folds;
- Airway obstruction requiring a breathing tube or possibly a tracheotomy;
- Burns to exposed skin (if a laser is used during your procedure);
- Airway fire (if a laser is used during your procedure).