



## **Laryngeal Electromyography (EMG)**

### **Why is it performed?**

Your laryngologist may recommend performing a laryngeal electromyography to obtain more information on how your larynx (voice box) is working. Laryngeal EMG measures the electrical signal in the muscles of your larynx which can give important information about the nerves that control the vocal cords. One of the most common situations where your doctor may recommend a laryngeal EMG is when a vocal cord is not moving normally. It can determine if there is damage to the nerve to the vocal cord and potentially the prognosis for recovery. It is important to understand that laryngeal EMG is better at predicting which vocal cords will NOT move again, rather than the ones that will.

### **What to expect on the day of the procedure**

The procedure may be performed by only your laryngologist or a laryngologist and a neurologist together. Typically, local anesthesia (numbing medication) is not given as this can interfere with the test. Your laryngologist will insert small needles through the skin of the neck and into the muscles of the larynx. You may be asked to do different vocal tasks such as saying “eeeeee”. Often the results of the test will be available right away and you can discuss them with your laryngologist on the day of the procedure.

### **What to expect after the procedure**

Minor bruising and soreness of the neck and throat are normal after this procedure. Some mild hoarseness and a small amount of blood in your saliva can also occur. More severe symptoms are very rare, however if you experience swelling of the neck, difficulty breathing or coughing up blood after the procedure you should let your doctor know right away or go to the emergency room.