Patient Information

University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust

Speech and Language Therapy

Videofluoroscopy to assess laryngectomy voicing difficulties

Your speech and language therapist or doctor has referred you for investigation of your voice. This means attending a Videofluoroscopy Clinic at University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire (UHCW).

The speech and language therapist may want to assess your valve before the appointment to make sure it's not leaking. We'll advise you in your appointment letter if needed.

What is a videofluoroscopy

A videofluoroscopy is a moving X-ray which allows us to watch as you swallow. This can provide us with information about the cause of your difficulty.

Where the videofluoroscopy is done

The Videofluoroscopy Clinic is held in the X-ray suite on ground floor of University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire.

Several patients may be assessed during the session, so you may have to wait a short time.

On the day of your appointment

When you arrive at the X-ray Department please book in at reception.

The examination is carried out by a speech and language therapist and a radiographer with an extended scope of practice or a consultant radiologist. Your speech and language therapist may also be present.

You'll be called into the X-ray suite when the team are ready to assess you. You'll be introduced to the team and then we'll ask you to sit on a seat inside the X-ray equipment.

Before the examination

Tell the Speech and Language Therapist about any food allergies you have.

During the examination

When the equipment has been set up, you'll be asked to swallow a drink with a type of barium tracer (a special liquid that shows up on X-ray). This will coat the throat structures and be recorded.

Once the structures are coated, we'll ask to try to voice. The speech and language therapist will give you directions on what to say and for how long.

How long the examination will take

The examination will take no more than a few minutes. However, allow an hour for your appointment to allow for waiting time.

Food and drink

Unless you have been advised otherwise, you can eat and drink as usual before your appointment.

If you are currently feeding through a tube, take your feeds as usual up until your appointment time.

After the examination

You can return to the ward or go home immediately after the appointment. You may be given some basic information after the examination. However, this is not always possible.

The speech and language therapist will meet to look at your video recording carefully. Your results and a report will be sent to your referrer, GP and speech and language therapist. Any follow-up appointments will then be arranged.

More information

If you have any mobility problems or if you have any further questions, please contact the Speech and Language Therapy Department on 024 7696 6449.

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format, please contact 024 7696 6449 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke-free policy.

Did we get it right?

We would like you to tell us what you think about our services. This helps us make further improvements and recognise members of staff who provide a good service.

Have your say. Scan the QR code or visit:
www.uhcw.nhs.uk/feedback

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