

Communication Methods for Laryngectomy Patients

Electrolarynx	Esophageal Speech	Tracheoesophageal Fistulization – TEF Speech
<p style="text-align: center;">Pros</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You can start to use one very soon after surgery. • Many people find it easy to learn with therapy. • You can communicate in noisy environments. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Pros</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Esophageal speech is a more "natural" sounding voice. • You do not use electronic aids, prostheses or your hands to help you communicate. • It does not cost you anything. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Pros</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quick and easy to learn. • A more "natural" sounding voice. It is often a louder and stronger voice compared to esophageal speech. • This procedure is reversible. • A valve can be used so both hands are free. • There are many types of voice prostheses to choose from.
<p style="text-align: center;">Cons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sounds like a mechanical voice. • Tremor of the hands or severe hearing loss can impede success. • It can break. • You will have to pay for some of the cost. For example, it uses rechargeable or disposable batteries. • You may have problems with placement if you have severe scarring in your neck area, a lot of oral surgery or saliva. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Cons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tension and stress can make it harder to speak clearly due to tight muscles. • You may find it hard to learn this method of speech. It can take up to 4 months to 1 year to learn and do well. • You must be motivated to work hard in therapy and practise at home. • You may not be able to talk loudly. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Cons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This method is not suitable for all people. It depends on the amount of surgery you had and the effects of radiation treatment. • The prosthesis needs to be cleaned and cared for daily. • You need more surgery if it is done as a secondary procedure. • You need to pay for a portion of the cost. • Tension and stress can make it harder to speak clearly.

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