

Recurrent laryngeal nerve paresis

Nervus laryngeus recurrens **sensitively** innervates **the subglottic part** of the larynx and **motorically all muscles of the larynx except the cricothyroideus muscle**.

Paresis of the recurrent laryngeal nerve can occur:

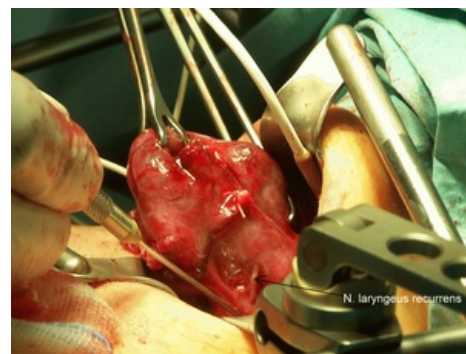
- **Damage to the nuclei of the vagus nerve;**
- **By damage to the vagus nerve** above the recurrent laryngeal nerve – tumor, trauma, neurological disease, skull base surgery;
- **Damage to recurrent laryngeal nerve** - neck surgery, upper mediastinal surgery and especially **thyroid surgery**.

Unilateral paresis

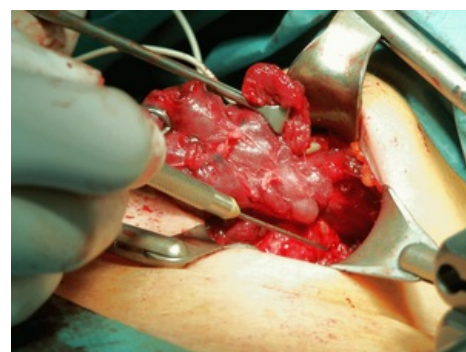
- Unilateral paresis is manifested by a phonation disorder. Inspiratory dyspnea is not present.
- The vocal cord becomes immobile, it is fixed in the paramedian position.
- **Therapy:** phoniatric care - in case of failure, surgery (thyreoplasty) comes next.

Bilateral paresis

- Bilateral paresis leads to airway stenosis in the glottis region.
- It is clinically manifested by dysphonia, dysphagia and inspiratory dyspnea with inspiratory stridor.
- The vocal cords are immobile, fixed in a paramedian position.
- **Therapy: provision of airways, widening of the respiratory slit (laterofixation of the vocal cords, arytenoidectomy, chordectomy).**



Nervus laryngeus recurrens in thyroid surgery



Intraoperative monitoring of recurrent laryngeal nerve

Links

Related Articles

- Salivary gland diseases
- Examination methods in ENT/overview
- Saliva

External links

Disorder of innervation of the vocal cords (<http://atlas.lf1.cuni.cz/ohr/porucha-inervace-15/>)

Source

- BENEŠ, Jiří. *Studying materials* [online]. ©2007. [cit. 2009]. <http://jirben2.chytrak.cz/materialy/orl_jb.doc>.

Použitá literatura

- KLOZAR, Jan, et al. *Speciální otorinolaryngologie*. 1. edition. Prague : Galén, 2005. 224 pp. ISBN 80-7262-346-X.