

Speech therapy goals after a total laryngectomy: voice quality or intelligibility?

A Total laryngectomy is an operation whereby the entire larynx, including the vocal folds, is removed. After this surgical procedure, normal laryngeal voice production is not longer possible. By applying a voice prosthesis, which enables the patient to use tracheo- esophageal speech, quite good speech results are possible, but it is still very deviant from normal laryngeal speech. Many studies in this field focus on voice quality rather than speech intelligibility. The question is which of both we have to take into account to select our therapy goals. In this lecture we will discuss different aspects that determine the therapy outcomes