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Fiberoptic laryngoscopy

Fiberoptic laryngoscopy is performed to evaluate the nasal passages, posterior pharynx, and vocal cords. There is no special preparation for the procedure. Fiberoptic laryngoscopy is often a routine part of the office visit.

The physician will typically spray an anesthetic/vasoconstrictive medication into the nose. This allows numbing and shrinking of the nasal tissue to allow better visualization and passage of the laryngoscope. After adequate anesthesia, the telescope is inserted through one nostril.

Typically, the side of the nose that has less obstruction (opposite side of a deviated septum) is chosen. The gag reflex is minimized with the scope being passed through the nose.

The patient may be asked to say “eee”, sniff, whistle, and / or cough to further study the movement of the vocal cords. The numbing medication typically decreases over the next several hours.