

## **THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF PATIENTS AFTER LARYNGECTOMY**

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**Introduction:** The article is devoted to the quality of life of patients after laryngectomy. Civilization development, improper nutrition habits, unhygienic lifestyle helps developing cancer diseases. Among all malignant tumors of the head and neck, larynx cancer occurs most commonly. Cancer diseases disturb feelings of safety, one's own value, self-acceptance and independence. Moreover, effects of a therapy create many new difficult situations for a patient, which may have big psychological significance.

**Material and methods:** The basic methods of treating larynx cancer are surgery and radiotherapy. In this study, we dealt with the persons after laryngectomy who stood the chance of returning to health after the operation but at the same time experienced a series of negative consequences, both physical and connected with psychosocial functioning. The investigation was made using the following research tools: The HAD Scale, which assesses the frequency of occurrence and the intensity of fear and depression and The QLQ-C30 Scale that enables the appraisal of the physical state, social functioning, and the way of coping with emotions.

**Results:** The results showed that the patients' emotional state may influence and modify the experienced physical symptoms and social functioning. The increased level of fear results in fatigue as well as in difficulties in social functioning. Clinical depression symptoms may result in an increase of breath disturbances and in gastric problems.

**Conclusions:** Learning about the side-effects of therapy and resulting problems in the patient's life may help improve his psychophysical comfort through education, advice, and social support.