Specialized Treatment for Voice and Swallowing Disorders

Voice and swallowing problems can develop for many reasons, from injuries and allergies to more serious conditions such as cancer.

University Physician Group offers convenient and comprehensive voice care using advanced technology and a personalized approach. Our patients receive top quality care from board-certified physicians, surgeons and licensed speech-language pathologists who specialize in voice and laryngeal disorders.

Disorders Treated

by UPG Otolaryngology Services

The voice specialists at UPG are experienced in the diagnosis and treatment of a wide variety of voice disorders, including:

- Benign vocal fold lesions
- Cancer of the larynx
- Congenital laryngeal malformations
- Laryngeal trauma
- Muscle tension dysphonia
- Neurogenic dysphonia
- Psychogenic dysphonia
- Spasmodic dysphonia
- Swallowing disorders
- Vocal muscle paralysis
- Other laryngeal disorders

Otolaryngologist

Adam Folbe, M.D., is an assistant professor in the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at the Wayne State University School of Medicine. Dr. Folbe treats all aspects of otolaryngology (ear, nose and throat diseases), and sub-specializes in diseases of the nose, sinuses and voice. He is an expert in surgery for chronic sinus disease, revision sinus surgery, cerebral spinal fluid leaks and anterior skull base tumors. Dr. Folbe also performs office-based surgery to treat voice disorders, such as vocal cord paralysis with in-office techniques that do not require general anesthesia.

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To learn more about UPG Otolaryngology Services, visit upgdocs.org/oto
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Acoustic voice analysis
Laryngeal videostroboscopy analysis
Laryngeal phonosurgery
Laser surgery
Modified barium swallow study
Nasendoscopy
Passy-Muir® voice valve fitting
Professional voice preservation
Thyroplasty and arytenoid medialization
Tracheoesophageal prosthesis voice rehabilitation
Vocal cord augmentation

State-of-the-Art Videostroboscopy
Utilizing Advanced Technology
UPG offers advanced videostroboscopic examinations of the larynx for patients with vocal disorders. Our voice specialists perform this procedure in an office setting under stroboscopic light for a close-up analysis of each vocal fold vibration. This unique type of visualization allows for a precise assessment of vocal cord movement and identification of disorders. This technology also allows our staff to obtain detailed images and video of the patient’s larynx and vocal cords, which can be used to deliver a specific treatment plan in collaboration with a patient’s health care team.

Identifying Voice Problems
Understanding the Causes and Symptoms

HOW DO I KNOW IF I HAVE A VOICE PROBLEM?
Hoarseness, breathiness or a raspy quality to the voice can indicate a problem. Other symptoms include changes in pitch, loss of voice, reduced loudness, vocal fatigue and vocal effort/strain. These conditions initially require consultation with an otolaryngologist to rule out laryngeal pathology.

WHAT IS THE MOST COMMON CAUSE OF VOICE CHANGES?
Voice changes sometimes follow an upper respiratory infection and can last for up to two weeks. Typically, an infection causes swelling of the vocal cords, which changes vibration, resulting in an abnormal voice. Voice rest typically helps, but if there is no improvement within two to four weeks after an infection, a medical evaluation by an ear, nose and throat specialist is recommended.

A change in the voice lasting longer than one month is especially important for smokers as this can be a symptom of throat cancer. Early detection by an ear, nose and throat specialist significantly increases the effectiveness of treatment.

From the very beginning it was a complete success
As a professional voice over artist, Bob Drake provides commercial voice talent for well-known brands. He was understandably alarmed when he began noticing changes in his voice during recording auditions.

Bob met with otolaryngologist Dr. Adam Folbe and speech pathologist Deb Simpson of University Physician Group. Together they worked with Bob to identify the issues causing his hoarseness and voice changes, and to establish a treatment plan.

“We set up some voice therapy sessions and from the very beginning it was a complete success,” Bob said.

“Dr. Folbe and I were always on the same page in terms of what my concerns were. He listened, calmed my fears, gave me a plan and met – and even exceeded – my expectations.”

Today Bob has regained his vocal strength and range, and continues to use the techniques he learned to keep his voice going strong.

Specialized Voice Services for Patients Needing Specialized Care
- Acoustic voice analysis
- Laryngeal videostroboscopy analysis
- Laryngeal phonosurgery
- Laser surgery
- Modified barium swallow study
- Nasendoscopy
- Passy-Muir® voice valve fitting
- Professional voice preservation
- Thyroplasty and arytenoid medialization
- Tracheoesophageal prosthesis voice rehabilitation
- Vocal cord augmentation

Signs and Symptoms
The following questions can help determine whether a patient has an unhealthy voice:
- Has your voice become hoarse or raspy?
- Does your throat often feel sore, achy or strained?
- Does talking require more effort than usual?
- Do you find yourself repeatedly clearing your throat?
- Do people regularly ask you if you have a cold when in fact you do not?
- Have you lost your ability to sing at a higher pitch?

State-of-the-Art Videostroboscopy
Utilizing Advanced Technology
Upstate University College of Medicine offers comprehensive voice care using state-of-the-art technology and a personalized approach.

University Physician Group Otolaryngology Services offers comprehensive voice care using state-of-the-art technology and a personalized approach.

VOICE AND SWALLOWING DISORDERS

Specialized Voice Services
for Patients Needing Specialized Care

Beyond the ordinary
University Physician Group Otolaryngology Services is located at:
Lahser Medical Building
27177 Lahser Road, Suite 203
Southfield, MI 48034
To refer a patient for specialty testing or treatment, call 248-357-4151.

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What is the most common cause of voice changes?

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Knowledge-Powered Medicine

UPG is the second largest nonprofit multi-specialty physician practice group in southeast Michigan, with more than 2,000 affiliated physicians providing primary and specialty care.
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Otolaryngology services for voice and swallowing disorders

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