

Complications in one-third undergoing total laryngectomy

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wound complications were associated with former and current smokers (odds ratios, 5.1 [P = 0.03] and 5.8 [P = 0.02], respectively); PCFs correlated with prior wide-field, but not prior narrow-field radiation (odds ratios, 3.1 [P = 0.01] and 1.4 [P = 0.61], respectively); length of stay correlated with the type of flap and postoperative hematomas (P = 0.002 and 0.05, respectively); and readmission correlated with preoperative hypoalbuminemia and postoperative wound complications (P = 0.003 and P

"These data can inform quality improvement efforts and the counseling of high-risk [patients](#) undergoing TL," the authors write.

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(HealthDay)—About one-third of patients undergoing total laryngectomy (TL) have complications and 13.9 percent are readmitted within 30 days, according to a study published online Dec. 27 in *Cancer*.

Ryan P. Goepfert, M.D., from the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, and colleagues conducted a [retrospective cohort study](#) involving all patients who underwent TL at the center from Jan. 1, 2010, through June 30, 2013. They extracted patient demographics, treatment history, hospital length of stay, and 30-day post-TL complications and readmissions from the medical records for 245 patients.

The researchers found that complications occurred in 83 patients (33.9 percent), including three deaths (1.2 percent). Fifty-three patients (21.6 percent) had [wound complications](#), and 34 were pharyngocutaneous fistulas (PCFs, 13.9 percent overall). Readmission within 30 days occurred in 34 patients (13.9 percent). In multivariate analysis,

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