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Vocal Fold Augmentation in the Clinical Setting

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Vocal fold injection in the office setting is used to provide minimally-invasive global vocal fold augmentation into the deep aspect of the vocal fold for patients with glottal insufficiency. Several advantages to performing this office-based procedure include avoidance of general anesthesia, decreased cost, and tailoring of the augmentation to optimize the patient's voice result by intermittently testing the voice throughout and at the completion of the procedure. It is indicated in treatment of symptomatic glottal insufficiency due to vocal fold paralysis (unilateral), atrophy, paresis, scar, soft tissue loss, and sulcus vocalis. Injection in the clinic setting can be used as a temporizing measure to correct glottal insufficiency, most especially if patient is aspirating, or dysphonic and has vocal demands, while allowing for spontaneous recovery of function without having to perform an open surgical procedure in the hospital with general anesthesia. It can be used as a trial vocal fold augmentation, offering a patient a minimally-invasive opportunity to test drive their voice post-correction, allowing the patient to decide if a permanent treatment option is desirable. Suitability and contraindications for the procedure will be discussed. Two techniques will be presented – peroral and percutaneous (transthyroid, transcricothyroid and transthyrohyoid approaches), and key points for optimal injection augmentation will be highlighted.