

## **FP 47: Treatment of a Dysfunctional Larynx from Post-Radiation Changes: A Case Report**

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**Background:** Cancer surveillance in irradiated patients with laryngeal carcinoma presents a new set of issues since recurrence and radiation-induced changes may present with similar clinical findings. The dilemma for management becomes even more complicated if a biopsy of the suspicious lesion does not yield definitive results for recurrence of malignancy. Decisions regarding a more conservative approach versus a more invasive surgical option must be made with risks and benefits of either choice taken into consideration.

**Case presentation:** A 61 year old male diagnosed with laryngeal squamous cell carcinoma presented with hoarseness, progressive dysphagia leading to aspiration, and difficulty of breathing two months after undergoing radiotherapy. Examination revealed a swollen supraglottis, paralyzed vocal cords, and a mass on the right true vocal cord. Several biopsies taken from the larynx yielded results negative for malignancy and favored radiation-induced changes. When presented with the option of further diagnostic testing with a positron emission tomography (PET) scan or outright laryngectomy, the patient decided on the latter. Final histopathologic diagnosis was negative for recurrence of malignancy.

**Conclusion:** This case demonstrates treatment dilemmas involving patients diagnosed with laryngeal carcinoma with uncertain recurrence wherein radical surgical management may prove to be a viable option in order to achieve both certain diagnosis and relief of symptoms for the ailing patient.