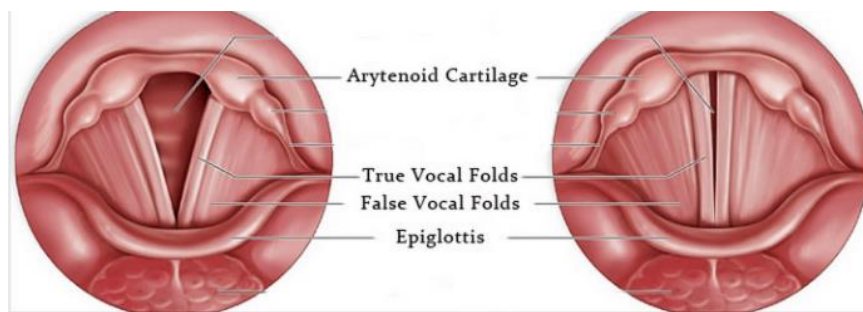


Information on Throat or Vocal Cord Area Surgery

Vocal Cords:

The vocal cords, also known as **vocal folds**, are folds of tissue in the throat that are key in creating sounds through vocalization. The cords open when breathing and vibrate for speech and singing. The cords are controlled via the recurrent laryngeal nerve. The vocal cords are twin infoldings of mucous membrane stretched horizontally, from back to front, across the larynx. The vocal pitch is determined by the frequency of vibration and the thickness of the vocal cords.



Basic Functions of Vocal Cords:

1. Close tightly to protect the airway from choking on materials in the throat.
2. Open widely to allow the flow of air into our lungs.
3. Production of sounds used for speech.

Microlaryngoscopy:

Is a surgical procedure performed through a hollow tube (laryngoscope) that is placed through the mouth to expose the vocal folds. A microscope may be used to examine the vocal folds in detail.

Vocal Cord Surgery:

A procedure done through the laryngoscope to biopsy or remove lesions affecting the vocal cords.