

What is laryngeal chondrosarcoma?

You may have heard about a recent first at Mayo Clinic, a larynx transplant. What you may not have heard was what precipitated that transplant. The patient developed a rare form of cancer called laryngeal chondrosarcoma.

Dr. David Lott, Mayo Clinic otolaryngologist and head and neck surgeon with the Mayo Clinic Head and Neck Cancer Center and Mayo Clinic Comprehensive Cancer Center, explains.

Video	Audio
	Your larynx, or voice box, essentially sits in the middle of your throat.
David Lott, M.D. Otolaryngology Mayo Clinic	"And it has a bunch of jobs. It is the primary organ that's responsible for your ability to speak, for your ability to swallow, to eat and drink, and to breathe."
	Unfortunately, like the rest of your body, things can go wrong, including cancer.
	"Laryngeal chondrosarcoma are cancers of the cartilage within the larynx."
	It's an uncommon cancer, accounting for about 1% of overall laryngeal cancers. Symptoms may include hoarseness, breathing difficulties and pain in the throat.
	"Laryngeal chondrosarcoma are treated a little bit differently than the typical laryngeal cancers."
	Dr. David Lott says step 1 is determining the grade of cancer. Is it mild or a more aggressive form?
	"If there's a lot of destruction and the patient is having a lot of symptoms, like not being able to breathe or not being able to swallow or have lost their voice, then we need to act a little more aggressively to try to remove that tumor to try to preserve what function they have."
	Because of its rarity and the intricate anatomy, this cancer type needs specialized care from a team of experts, including

	otolaryngologists and oncologists.
	Unlike many cancers, even some other laryngeal cancers...
1:07:54 – 1:08:06	...there really isn't much that people do to get that type of a cancer. It's not strictly associated with things like smoking or alcohol use. It tends to be, honestly, just bad luck."
	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm Joel Streed