

BRIEFING

Laryngectomy: UK audit from the first national lockdown



300



New laryngectomy operations performed on the NHS each year. As neck breathers, there was concern that this group may be at greater risk during the pandemic.

26



NHS sites collected data between March 2020 and September 2020.

1216



Laryngectomy patients for whom SLTs collected COVID-19 related information. (Patients on existing active caseload).

Patient demographics

70

Average age of patients
Range: 28 - 97 years old

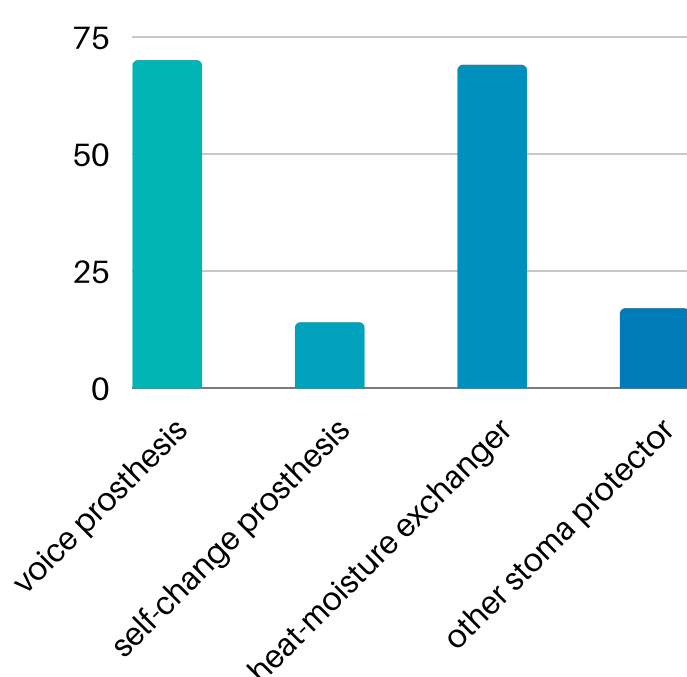


81%



19%

Percentage of patients: Use of voice prosthesis, HME & stoma protector



1/3



- 1/3 advised to shield.
- 1/3 self-isolated at some stage over the 6-months.

2%



- tested positive for COVID-19
- Not all patients were tested.

3%



- died over the 6-months (41 people).
- 8 of these (19%) tested positive for COVID-19.
- Previous estimates indicate 2.5%-3% of people with laryngectomy die from any cause over a 6-month timeframe.
- This data suggests no increase in expected deaths over the 6-month audit.

This audit was co-led by Prof Jo Patterson (University of Liverpool) and Dr Roganie Govender (University College London) on behalf of the Royal College of Speech & Language Therapists (RCSLT) Head & Neck Oncology Clinical Excellence Networks.