

Tips for Using an Electrolarynx

When you talk

- Say each sound as clearly as you can, especially the sounds at the beginning and the end of words. Exaggerate your lip and mouth movements.
- Speak slower than you usually speak. By speaking slowly, you will be able to speak clearly. The person listening to you will be able to understand you better. Try not to talk so slowly that you sound stiff. You will need to practice getting your speed right.
- Speak in short phrases or sentences. Lift the button after every 3 to 6 words. For example, “Hello. / How are you? / I am going golfing / with Bob and Sarah.” /
- You will not be able to shout or raise your voice.
- You do not need air from your lungs to speak with an electrolarynx. You should avoid huffing or puffing from your stoma.
- When using the neck model, be sure to keep the vibrator head snug against your skin. Make sure no sound escapes from around the edges of the vibrator head.
- When using the mouth model, make sure your tongue does not block the sound coming through the tube. It is better to place the mouth tube about 1 inch (2.5 cm) from the corner of your mouth and let it ride on the top side of your tongue.

Looking after the machine

- Keep your electrolarynx dry. Water and moisture will harm the machine.
- Keep your electrolarynx away from children. Remind older children that your electrolarynx is not a toy.

Looking after the machine

- Avoid dropping your electrolarynx as this could damage the machine.
- Clean the outside of the electrolarynx with alcohol. The battery contacts can be cleaned with a pencil eraser.
- Keep the mouth tubes clean on the mouth model. Wash them in soapy water and then soak them each night in hydrogen peroxide.

Using the telephone

- If you use the neck model, keep the mouthpiece up in the front of your nose rather than down by your chin. When the telephone mouthpiece is down by your chin, there will be more noise on the line as the mouthpiece is close to the noise of the machine.
- If you use the neck model on your cheek, keep the telephone mouthpiece by your chin.
- If you use the mouth model, keep the telephone mouthpiece by your chin.