

What to do if your voice prosthesis falls out of the Tracheoesophageal Puncture (TEP)

Do not panic, assess the situation*

1. Are you having difficulty breathing?
 - **If so, seek medical attention immediately**
2. Is the voice prosthesis lost? Do you believe the voice prosthesis fell into your trachea (windpipe) and possibly into your lungs?
 - **If so, seek medical attention immediately**
3. Follow the below instructions from your clinician and/or physician on what to do in this situation (to be completed in coordination with your clinician and/or physician):

4. No matter what your situation, try not to swallow. Saliva can pass through the tracheoesophageal puncture, into your windpipe and down into your lungs causing you to cough.
5. Your puncture can close in a matter of hours to days. Once you follow your clinician and/or physician's instructions, please contact them as soon as possible and let them know what has happened.

Tip: Unless the puncture has closed naturally or is sealed by a catheter, you should still be able to talk by temporarily placing your thumb over your stoma opening and talking normally.

Tip: As a laryngectomee, always carry identification that you or a caregiver can present to first responders or emergency room personnel telling them that you breathe through a stoma in your neck and not your nose and mouth. It may be helpful to carry a small illustration showing where your voice prosthesis would normally be in place.

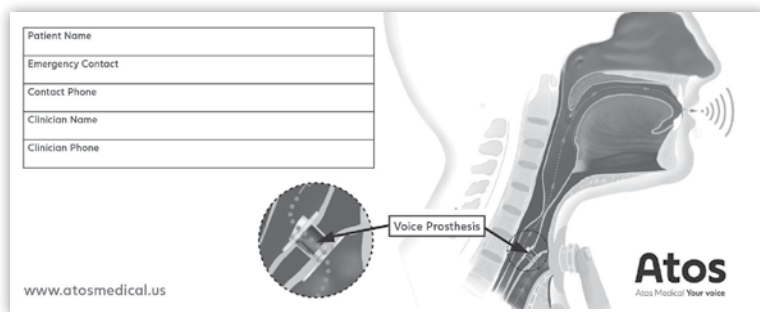
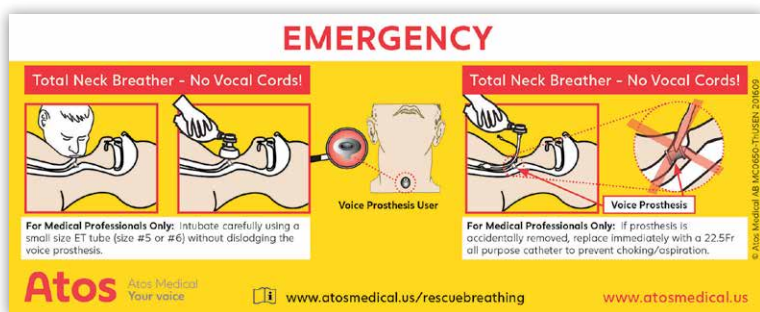
*** If any problems are noticed that are not listed here, the patient should still take action. The reported incidence of Provox® voice prostheses falling out are rare.**



Suggested items you should carry in the event your voice prosthesis is swallowed and not in your windpipe or lungs

1. Suggested Items:

- Water soluble lubricating jelly (Surgilube® or K-Y Jelly®)
- Something to keep the puncture open like an all purpose catheter, per your clinician's instructions or prescription
- Medical Tape
- Emergency Card (shown below)
- Mirror
- Flashlight
- Plastic blunt-tip tweezers
- Provox® Cleaning Towel



If you go to the Emergency Room, please bring this instruction sheet with you.