

Laryngeal papillomata

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These are rare benign tumours occurring mainly in children but can also present in adults. They are most commonly found on the vocal folds but may spread throughout the larynx and tracheobronchial airway (although this is less likely in adults) (Figure 52.54). They are caused by papillomaviruses (most frequently HPV 6 and 11) and need repeated removal usually by laser microsurgery or microdebrider to maintain a reasonable voice and airway . These patients are best managed in specialist centres, with the appropriate expertise. The evidence to date is mixed with regard to antiviral use, and existing data are insufficient to support the regular use of antiviral agents such as cidofovir in the management of laryngeal papillomatosis. Vaccination against papilloma has shown some therapeutic benefit in reducing the recurrence of the disease. There is a greater appreciation of the role that gastro-oesophageal reflux may play in this setting and many centres opt to place patients on proton pump inhibitors or H blockers. 2 Laryngeal papillomata

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