**Electro Music with Alaryngeal Voices: a pilot study**

Thomas Moors

***Independent physician, UK***

Donatella Maraschin

***London South Bank University, UK***

Evangelos Himonides

***UCL, UK***

**Abstract**

The psychosocial impact of Laryngectomy, the surgical removal of the voice box indicated by throat cancer, is devastating. Up to 30 percent of this patient population has to overcome depression and/or is at risk of being socially isolated. We have introduced the alaryngeal voice in an electro music sample. The collaborative work involved in participating in the music production and listening to the resulting product was perceived as uplifting and motivating for the eight patients who were involved. We conclude that our findings are contributing to the growing evidence supporting the need for the use of music in the care of cancer patients and will use this pilot study in order to develop a systematic framework for the assessment of participant experience, as well as the impact of such class of intervention.

**Keywords**

Music, rehabilitation, throat cancer, Laryngectomy

**Aims**

To perform a pilot study to gain experience in implementing the alaryngeal voice in electronic compositions.

To see if the active musical participation of the patients has a beneficial effect on their self-esteem in order to justify the design and implementation of a more extensive empirical research project.

**Methods**

We had eight patients who volunteered after they had taken part in the voice rehabilitation sessions based on singing and acting techniques. Each of them was asked to record a part of the “Rainbow passage” whilst listening to a premixed sample, composed by DJ Jochem Peterson. Participant feedback was recorded after listening to the final result.

**Outcomes**

All of the patients stated that being part of this project had a beneficial effect on their self-perception, they found it motivating and reported to  being proud when they listened to the final result.

Our findings are contributing to the growing evidence supporting the need for the use of music in the care of cancer patients and this pilot study will now inform the design and implementation of a bespoke methodological framework that will allow the recording of systematic data regarding people's experiences, challenges and benefits of using music with alaryngeal voices. We aim to employ the Rosenberg Self-Esteem scale pre and post intervention.

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Shout at Cancer: the charity specializing in voice rehabilitation and social reintegration after laryngectomy ([www.shoutatcancer.org](https://mail.lsbu.ac.uk/owa/redir.aspx?SURL=H6TrX4iPW1xtNhoJVJivyPJIPn_TGuuTHndEK9gM7co7IfzZHXjTCGgAdAB0AHAAOgAvAC8AdwB3AHcALgBzAGgAbwB1AHQAYQB0AGMAYQBuAGMAZQByAC4AbwByAGcA&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.shoutatcancer.org)).

DJ Jochem Peterson

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