



Illnesses of the buccal space, pharynx, larynx and trachea, and recommendations for driving

Illnesses of the buccal space, pharynx, larynx and trachea, in addition to the specific symptoms of the disease, entail associated symptoms that have an enormous effect upon the patient's physical abilities and mood. We invite you to read this brief sheet to learn about common symptoms and advice for driving safely if you have any of them.

Common symptoms

Headache, pain in the face and/or neck, pain of the joints, neuralgia, occasional fever, dizziness and general physical discomfort are symptoms associated with many of these maladies. Suffering these causes discomfort, lack of concentration, sleepiness and anxiety, thereby inevitably increasing risk while driving. Most of these, at some point or frequently depending on the illness and each case, also entail dyspnea.

Dyspnea is a breathing disorder or shortness of breath:

1. Caused by the illness itself, as in the inflammation of the epiglottis (epiglottitis), inflammation of the larynx (laryngitis), inflammation of the trachea (tracheitis), tumors of the larynx (cancer of the larynx), tracheal stenosis or tracheal tumors, for example.

2. Caused by other factors, such as exposure to toxic fumes, the entry of a foreign body into the respiratory tract, nervousness, anxiety or psychological problems.

In any case, shortness of breath may cause an important loss of faculties for correctly driving a vehicle, in addition to significantly impeding attention to the road, signs and pedestrians.

These require a medical report confirming the illness has been cured for driving

- 1. Angioedema or Quincke's edema**
Given that this is an acute and serious dyspnea-related case requiring emergency treatment.
- 2. Traumatic, acute laryngitis due to laryngeal trauma with cartilaginous fractures**
Thyroid cartilage fracture caused by the direct impact of the steering wheel.
Causes dyspnea due to edema, emphysema and hematomas.
- 3. Laryngitis due to breathing fumes**
Causes major edema and major breathing difficulty, requiring emergency treatment.

6 Recommendations for driving with illnesses of the buccal space



The physician must always warn the patient that driving is not possible if:
Acute symptoms are present: pain, dizziness, dyspnea, fever...
If the medication prescribed for the illness interferes with driving.



You cannot drive if you have Costen's syndrome with the following symptoms: clogged ears, tinnitus, vertigo, itchiness, headaches and pain of the joints. Medical warning is especially pertinent in the case of vertigo.



Laryngeal dysfunction in stroke or fainting caused by coughing
In provoking the loss of consciousness, guidelines must be followed for detection and prevention.



Laryngospasms Patients prone to these must avoid air conditioning inside the vehicle and refrain from smoking. If these occur while driving, avoid sudden maneuvers and stop.



Laryngotracheal stenosis
Make sure that the tracheotomy cannula is clean. Avoid dry conditions during long trips. Drink fluids in abundance and stop to urinate.



Foreign bodies
Inhaling objects in the lips or mouth may cause death by asphyxia. Avoid chewing or sucking objects which, given their size, may be inhaled, especially while driving.