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Abstract

The vertical position of the larynx seems relevant to voice function. As a high vertical larynx position is often seen in hyperfunctional and strained voices, a lowering of a habitually elevated larynx is sometimes a specific goal in clinical voice therapy and different larynx-lowering exercises is used to achieve this goal.

Pitch has been observed to be one factor of relevance to vertical larynx position. In the present investigation was examined if lung volume affects vertical larynx position. By means of a multi-channel electroglottograph the larynx position was measured in 29 healthy, vocally untrained subjects, who phonated at different lung volumes, pitches and degrees of vocal loudness.

The main results were that high lung volume was clearly associated with a lower larynx position as compared to low lung volume. In addition, vertical larynx position was strongly correlated with pitch. Both these dependencies was shown to be stronger in males than in females. Our results suggest that lung volume constitutes a factor highly relevant to larynx height in untrained subjects.