

Preface: Please help make this Newsletter better for everyone by sending me articles of interest. If you need my postal mailing address, please contact me.

RECEIVED FEEDBACK ON FEBRUARY '07 NEWSLETTER

ARTICLE:

re: "TAIWAN CHINA TEAM REPORTING WORLD'S FIRST CURE FOR SD"

February article said:

"Kaohsiung's Changgung Voice Center has developed a revolutionary new microlaser surgery for the throat that uses a microscope attached to a lens in the throat. A laser is used to vaporize the feedback nerve cell receptors deep inside the thyroarytenoid muscle."

A Florida ENT said this is basically a "hot knife" (laser) procedure that has been tried before without much success.

AT&T'S PHONE RELAY

For those of you who not only dislike speaking on the telephone but absolutely cannot, this free service can help you. AT&T's Internet Relay provides a way for customers to make phone calls by going to a special web site; type in a number they want to call; type in what you want to say; having a specially trained AT&T assistance make the call for you; then receiving the responses from your 'conversation' coming back to you in typed form.

You can access the AT&T Phone Relay system via your computer, web phone, personal digital assistant, or any other Internet capable device through your Internet Service Provider ("ISP"). By pointing your web browser to the AT&T Internet Relay address <http://relay.att.com> you will be able to access the relay operator and place a relay call to a standard phone user.

Further, AT&T Terms & Conditions state:

"Users will be able and allowed to place domestic local, toll, and long distance AT&T Internet Relay calls to anywhere at no cost! For calls terminating outside of the United States, please dial AT&T Long Distance Relay at 1-800-855-2882. Other limitations apply as set forth herein. Limited AT&T technical support may be

available, however, AT&T shall have no obligation to provide technical or customer service support for use of AT&T Internet Relay Service."

This system's technical requirements state you need Windows 95 or higher and Microsoft Internet Explorer versions 5.0, 5.5, 6.0; or Netscape version 4.7; AT&T does not warrant that their technical support will be available to respond if you have any technical issues.

AT&T also states this system is NOT to be used to make emergency phone calls.

One person who used this system said it has been around for years and had been developed for the deaf and those with throat cancer, etc. It worked well but was quite slow. If any of you should try this system, please report back with your experience and I'll pass along the information in the next Newsletter.

CRACKED POTS

An elderly Chinese woman had two large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole, which she carried across her neck. One of the pots had a crack in it while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water at the end of the long walk from the stream to the house, the cracked pot arrived only half full.

For a full two years this went on daily, with the woman bringing home only one and a half pots of water. Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it could only do half of what it had been made to do.

After 2 years of what it perceived to be bitter failure, it spoke to the woman one day by the stream. "I am ashamed of myself, because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house." The old woman smiled, "Did you notice that there are flowers on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side?" "That's because I have always known about your flaw, so I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back, you water them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table. Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house."

Each of us has our own unique flaw. But it's the cracks and flaws we each have that make our lives together so very interesting and rewarding. You've just got to take each person for what they are and look for the good in them.

So, to all of my crackpot friends, have a great day and remember to smell the flowers on your side of the path!

Help Yourself - please support the NSDA

If you are not a member of NSDA, please take the time to join. The cost is \$35. per year and it is a way that you can fight back against SD, including the funding of SD medical research projects. Go to the NSDA web site, <http://www.dysphonia.org/> and click onto the right hand corner box, Join or Donate or write a check and mail to:

National Spasmodic Dysphonia Association
300 Park Boulevard, Suite 415
Itasca, IL 60143

All contributions are tax-deductible. The NSDA is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization and its U.S. Tax ID Number is 38-2918042.

www.dysphonia.org

Spasmodic Dysphonia (SD) is a neurological voice disorder that involves involuntary "spasms" of the vocal cords causing interruptions or straining of speech that affects voice quality.

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Save the Date: May 5, 2007 NSDA Symposium