

KENNETH W. ALTMAN MD, PhD



Director of the Eugen Grabscheid MD Voice Center

Dr. Altman is Associate Professor of Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery at the Mount Sinai Hospital. He is nationally and internationally known for his expertise and publications in laryngology, care of the professional voice, and rhinology, and is a frequent speaker at medical conferences. Dr. Altman is presently Associate Editor for Laryngology in the preeminent journal *Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery*, and is on the Editorial Board of numerous other journals. Board-certified, he is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons, the American Laryngological Association (where he is also on the Executive Board), the American Rhinological Society and the Triological Society. He has been consistently recognized by *Best-Doctors in America*, as well as *New York Super Doctors*. Dr. Altman has numerous research interests, including strategies for chronic cough, neurolaryngology, hormonal effects on the voice, and emerging treatments for vocal paralysis and glottic stenosis.

To refer a patient or to make an appointment, please contact us at one of our locations or by calling the Physician Access Services

Practice Location

Mount Sinai Medical Center
Faculty Practice Associates
5 East 98th Street, 8th Floor
Box #1191
New York, NY 10029
Tel # 212-241-9425
Fax # 212-828-4181

Physician Access Services

Physician Access Services offers referring doctors and their patients effortless access to the Mount Sinai Medical Center.
Tel # 212-241-4983
Toll Free # 877-241-4983
Fax # 212-241-8863

For directions to our office locations visit our website at www.mountsinai.org.

For more information or questions, please
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MOUNT SINAI
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DEPARTMENT OF
OTOLARYNGOLOGY



The Eugen Grabscheid MD Voice Center

The background of the lower half of the image is a large, multi-paned glass window. Through the window, a dense canopy of trees is visible, with some green leaves and many bare branches. In the foreground, a large, highly reflective metal sphere sits on a dark surface. The sphere's surface is distorted and reflects the grid-like structure of the window and the trees outside. The overall lighting is somewhat dim, suggesting an overcast day or an interior space with natural light coming through the window.

*Voice
Swallowing
Cough
Airway*



The Eugen Grabscheid MD Voice Center

What is Laryngology?

The human voice is an instrument of basic communication and a source of stunning beauty. Whether or not it is used professionally, this integral component of well-being is subject to injury or illness that can be prevented or treated. Laryngology is the oldest subspecialty in medicine and has a profound impact on one's ability to communicate, sustain nutrition, and breathe. Beyond voice, speech and swallowing disorders, and diseases *directly* affecting the larynx, the larynx is sensitive to a host of *indirect* effects that may result in hoarseness and chronic cough. These include those from upper respiratory disease (such as sinusitis and allergy), lower respiratory disease (such as asthma and bronchitis), upper gastrointestinal disease (contributing to gastroesophageal or laryngopharyngeal reflux-LPR), and the devastating effects of many neurological diseases.

About the Program

Eugen Grabscheid MD (1916-1985) pioneered voice care and otolaryngology for performing artists and practiced in New York for over 50 years. The Eugen Grabscheid MD Voice Center is an internationally-recognized program that continues his legacy through state-of-the-art, comprehensive and interdisciplinary patient care, as well as service to the voice community. While the center possesses a unique understanding of the needs of singers, actors and lecturers, its professionals service a wide spectrum of needs. Patients at the Eugen Grabscheid MD Voice Center are afforded access to top physicians and surgeons with the following specialties: allergy, gastroenterology, infectious disease, pulmonary, endocrinology, physical medicine & rehabilitation, neurology, and speech & language pathology.

The Multidisciplinary Team Approach to the Larynx

Based on this interdisciplinary concept, the Eugen Grabscheid MD Voice Center offers state-of-the-art tools and concepts in the evaluation and treatment of voice, swallowing, airway disorders and chronic cough. Our interdisciplinary team consists of Speech Language Pathologists who specialize in speaking, singing and swallowing therapy. The full spectrum of care is complimented by specialists in the fields of gastroenterology, pulmonology, radiology and surgical pathology services. We also strive to employ minimally invasive procedures when surgery is necessary. In 2006, the Grabscheid Voice Center's Minimally Invasive Office Laryngology Program introduced two new lasers that allow treatment of laryngeal lesions without general anesthesia. We also offer state-of-the-art tools such as digital stroboscopy, transnasal esophagoscopy, pulse dye laser treatment, objective swallowing measure assessment and laryngeal electromyography.

The present scope of practice includes evaluation and interdisciplinary management of:

- *Professional voice- speaking, acting, singing*
- *Benign neoplasms- nodules, polyps, cysts, papilloma*
- *Malignant neoplasms- leukoplakia, dysplasia, early larynx cancer*
- *Movement disorders- vocal paralysis, paresis, BOTOX for spasmodic dysphonia*
- *Dysphagia- gastroesophageal reflux and LPR, endoscopic surgery for Zenker's diverticulum, cricopharyngeus spasm treatment with BOTOX or surgery*
- *Chronic cough and paradoxical vocal fold motion*
- *Airway- glottal, subglottal and tracheal stenosis, bilateral vocal paralysis*
- *Voice and swallowing rehabilitation in patients with stroke and neurodegenerative disease*
- *Voice and swallowing rehabilitation in tracheostomy and hospitalized patients*

Research and Education

The Comprehensive Research Program in Laryngology is a set of interdisciplinary research projects in both clinical and basic science departments at The Mount Sinai School of Medicine. It is designed to 1) improve the scientific understanding of laryngology, and 2) advance the standard of patient care through research. Projects are intentionally designed to be collaborative and interdisciplinary in nature to take advantage of resources and perspectives unique to each discipline.

Another mission of the Grabscheid Voice Center is to advance education and understanding of voice disorders among patients and professionals. Our faculty is routinely involved in lectures to improve the standard-of-care, as well as through the annual Phonosurgery & Phonotherapy: State-of-the-Art course, and the post-residency fellowship in Laryngology & Professional Voice Care.

About The Mount Sinai Medical Center

The Medical Center, located in New York City, consists of The Mount Sinai Hospital, a tertiary care facility known for excellence in patient care, and Mount Sinai School of Medicine, a leader in medical research and in the education of tomorrow's physicians by internationally known faculty. Founded in 1852, The Mount Sinai Hospital is one of the oldest teaching hospitals in the country. In 1963, the hospital created Mount Sinai School of Medicine beginning a close collaboration that has made Mount Sinai one of the leading academic medical centers in the country. Today, the patients of Mount Sinai benefit as teams of physicians and scientists work together to rapidly translate laboratory research to new patient treatments. Many of the groundbreaking approaches that result from these collaborations are initially available at only a handful of facilities in the country. Some of these advances are only available here, making Mount Sinai the first choice for patients with complex medical and surgical needs.