

Ear Nose and Throat



The complexities of ENT treatment

Ear Nose and Throat (commonly known as ENT) is a specialism, which addresses and treats medical issues related to hearing and balance, swallowing and speech, breathing and sleep issues, allergies and sinuses, head and neck cancer, skin disorders and even facial plastic surgery. ENT specialists are called Otolaryngologists.

Otolaryngologists do far more than treat simple sinus headaches or even sleep apnoea they are also surgeons who can be called upon to perform extremely delicate surgery such as restoration of hearing of the middle ear, Rhinoplasty (nasal surgery), removal of nasal obstructions, opening blocked airways, removing head, neck and throat cancers, and rebuilding essential structures and tinnitus. ENT practitioners specialise in pretty much everything from the collarbone up except for the brain and eyes.

It may be of little surprise to learn that nearly half of patients who attend primary care services have some form of ENT problem.

ENT treatment delay and negligence can lead to serious injury or long-term disability

Errors that may make an otolaryngologist liable for medical negligence include:

- Failure to order the appropriate test, such as an MRI or CT scan
- Failure to accurately interpret a study ordered
- Failure to diagnose or treat a patient's condition appropriately
- Failure to perform surgery or another procedure properly

The majority of ENT claims relate to surgical complications. Functional endoscopic sinus surgery and septoplasty are two procedures most commonly associated with successful claims.

The most common cause of a claim is failure to recognise a complication or manage it appropriately. This includes but is not limited to a delay in diagnosis and treating ENT or head and neck cancers. Issues of informed consent can also arise.

Any delay in diagnosis and in affording all appropriate treatment can result in serious injury and long-term disabilities. An adverse outcome could lead to a compensation claim.

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Claiming ENT compensation

Victims of medical negligence are often left suffering continued pain; they may require further medical treatment and are left worrying about the future for both themselves and their families. They may have suffered a loss of earnings and have significant care needs. They may require specialist interventions, therapies and support.

Clinical negligence compensation claims are designed to provide compensation to the victim for the physical and financial effects of their injuries. Damages if awarded will compensate for the injury and financial losses both past and future thereby meeting the costs of additional treatment, ongoing care, therapies and disability support along with any other financial losses. The aim being to put the victim back in the position they would have been but for the defendant's negligence so far as possible.

Support for patients affected by ENT negligence

At Lester Aldridge, we are highly experienced in investigating ENT claims and in taking forward successful compensation claims. We have access to a panel of medical experts who are leaders in their field.

We know how devastating a medical mistake can be. No amount of compensation can put things right but it can result in essential provision for the cost of care, to support both you and your loved ones and meet your immediate and ongoing needs. Our experienced specialist lawyers utilise their expertise to maximize any compensation award.

If you have suffered injury, following a mistake made in an ENT setting we can assist with your claim.

If you have concerns or questions, please contact our Personal Injury lawyers. Contact us by emailing: online.enquiries@la-law.com or calling 0344 967 0791.

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