

Questions?

Your physician will speak to you before your procedure and may ask to speak with you after your procedure to explain any findings or to arrange a follow-up appointment to discuss your results.

If you wish to call your Respiriologist's office for results, please allow up to 2 weeks for results.

Bronchoscopy

Information for patients and families



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What is a Bronchoscopy?

A Bronchoscopy is a procedure that allows your Respiriologist to examine the breathing passages (airways) of the lungs. It can be either a diagnostic procedure (to find out more about a possible problem) or a therapeutic procedure (to try to treat an existing problem or condition).

PREPARING FOR A BRONCHOSCOPY?

- No eating or drinking after midnight the night before your procedure.
- Take your prescribed medications with a small sip of water.
- Inhalers may be used as normal.
- Please leave your valuables at home.
- Arrange to have a friend or family member take you home after the procedure.
- You may be asked to adjust the dose of your medications (such as insulin and other diabetic medications).
- If you are taking blood thinning medications, check with your prescribing physician whether these medications need to be stopped or continued for the procedure.

WHAT HAPPENS DURING A BRONCHOSCOPY?

- The procedure typically takes between 15 and 30 minutes to complete.
- An intravenous (IV) needle will be put in your arm or hand.
- You will be given medications through the IV to make you feel relaxed.
- A local anaesthetic will be used to freeze your nose and/or mouth.
- The doctor will then pass the bronchoscope either through your nose or mouth and perform the bronchoscopy.
- During a Bronchoscopy, your doctor might also perform a biopsy – taking a small piece of tissue from the inside of the lung. You will not feel this.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER A BRONCHOSCOPY?

- After the procedure, you will be observed in a recovery area until the effects of the sedative medication wear off.
- Once you have met the discharge criteria, you will be able to go home.
- A nurse will review your discharge instructions with you.
- Your physician may ask to see you before you leave.
- Please wait 2 hours after your bronchoscopy before eating or drinking.
- Do not return to work on the day of procedure.
- Do not drive a car or operate machinery until the next day.

FOLLOWING A BRONCHOSCOPY, YOU MAY EXPERIENCE SOME OF THE FOLLOWING MILD SYMPTOMS:

- Nose bleed
- Sore throat
- Hoarse voice
- Coughing up small streaks of blood

If these symptoms persist or worsen, please go to your nearest Emergency Department.

