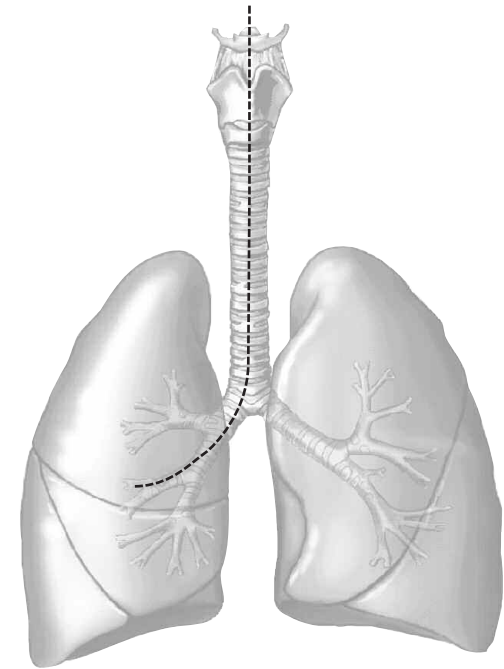


Bronchoscopy



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Bronchoscopy

A bronchoscopy is an outpatient procedure that involves the insertion of a thin, flexible scope through the nose or mouth into the airways of your lungs. It allows your doctor to directly visualize inside your airways to detect any abnormalities not seen on a CT scan. A biopsy may be taken if an abnormality is seen.

A bronchoscopy is done in the operating room while you are sedated with intravenous (IV) medications under the care of an anesthesiologist. The procedure usually takes between 30-60 minutes to complete. This procedure is often combined with other procedures that are performed for lung surgery and in this case is done under general anesthesia.

Your doctor may know the preliminary results of the procedure the same day. The final pathology report will take up to 3-5 working days and will be reviewed with you when you return for a postoperative visit.

How to Prepare for Your Procedure

- **Nothing** to eat or drink after midnight before your procedure.
- On the day of your procedure, take only the medications approved by your anesthesiologist with a sip of water. If you are unsure of these medications please contact the Thoracic Clinic for an explanation.
- Many medications, whether over-the-counter or prescription, can cause thinning of the blood. You will be instructed on stopping prescription medications which can cause problems with clotting.

You will need to stop the following over-the-counter medications seven (7) days before the bronchoscopy:

- all aspirin or ibuprofen products
- all over-the-counter vitamins and herbal supplements

What to Expect On the Day of Your Procedure

- The morning of your bronchoscopy you will check in at the Patient Access Department (Registration) on the ground floor in the hospital lobby. You will then be directed to Ambulatory Surgery Center (ASC) or 6 East.
- An intravenous catheter (IV) will be placed in a vein in your arm so that medications can be given to you for the procedure.
- You will be medicated shortly before the bronchoscopy to relax you during the procedure. This medication may give you the sensation of a dry mouth.
- You will be taken to a “holding area” which is located just outside the operating room. The anesthesiologist will meet you here before you are taken into the operating room. Your family will not be able to join you here.

What to Expect During the Bronchoscopy

- You will be positioned on your back. Your eyes will be covered with a towel to ensure protection.
- Your doctor may use a local anesthetic in your nose and throat (similar to the novocaine that you receive in the dentist’s office) to numb these areas.
- You will be given medication through an IV to put you into a light sleep.
- You will be asked to take slow, relaxed breaths through your mouth while the bronchoscope is being inserted.
- You may cough during the procedure due to irritation from the scope.
- You will still be able to breathe with the bronchoscope in your airway.
- The doctor will look down each airway that lead to your right and left lung. Biopsies may be taken.

What to Expect After the Bronchoscopy

- Following the procedure, you will be observed closely in the Recovery Room (Post-Anesthesia Care Unit-PACU) for about one (1) hour. You will then be returned to the floor you started on until your doctor discharges you.
- You can eat and drink once you are fully awake and the anesthesia has worn off (after your gag reflex has returned to normal).
- You may experience throat irritation and/or hoarseness, but it should subside in a few days. Lozenges such as Cepacol will help.
- It is common to have a mild fever after the procedure. Please call your doctor if your fever reaches 101 or higher.
- You may have blood-tinged mucous for 3-4 days, especially if a biopsy is done during the procedure. If you cough up a large amount of bright red blood, please notify your doctor.
- Refrain from smoking before and after the procedure.
- Notify your doctor if you have chest pain or experience difficulty breathing.

Questions or Concerns

If you have any questions about your procedure, please call the Thoracic Center at (716) 845-8809.