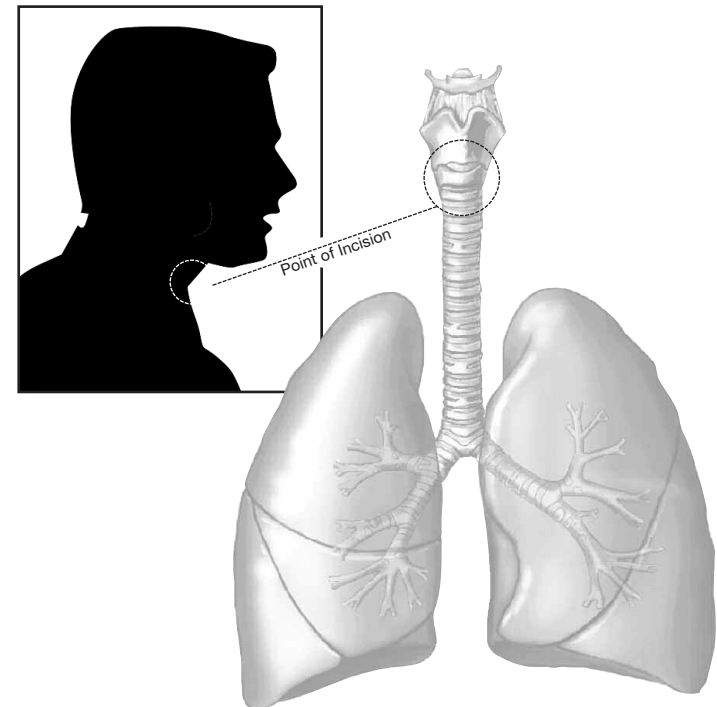


Mediastinoscopy Mediastinotomy



Elm & Carlton Streets • Buffalo, New York 14263
www.roswellpark.org
1-877-ASK-RPCI (1-877-275-7724)

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Mediastinoscopy

A Mediastinoscopy is a surgical procedure where a small incision is made at the base of the neck, just above the breastbone (sternum). The surgeon inserts a tube with a camera inside (mediastinoscope) into this incision to view the lymph nodes in the center of the chest (mediastinum). There are many lymph nodes in the mediastinum, around the trachea (wind pipe). The lymph nodes are biopsied and sent to pathology to obtain a diagnosis or to see if any cancer has spread to the lymph nodes.

Mediastinotomy (Chamberlain procedure)

A Mediastinotomy is a surgical procedure that also evaluates the mediastinal lymph nodes located in the center of the chest, but the surgeon will make a 1-2 inch incision just beside your breastbone.

These procedures are done in the operating room under general anesthesia. You may be able to go home the same day if you have the mediastinoscopy. You may go home the same day if you have the mediastinotomy or you may need to stay in the hospital 23-48 hours afterwards.

Your doctor may know the preliminary results of the procedure on 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 the night before the surgery.
- On the day of your surgery, 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 that can cause problems with clotting.

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

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

What to Expect on the Day of Your Procedure:

- When you arrive the morning of your surgery you will check in at the Patient Access Department (Registration), located on the ground floor in the hospital lobby. You will then be directed to the 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 surgery.
- 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 You Can Expect After Your Procedure:

- 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 or you will be admitted to a general surgical floor and likely discharged in the morning.
- 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 have pain and some swelling at the incision site for 1-2 weeks. You will be given a prescription for pain medications to be taken as needed.
- Pain medicine can be constipating and you may need to take a stool softener while on the pain medications. Let your doctor know if this is a problem.
- You will go home with a small dressing over the incision. Sutures are internal and will dissolve. Tape closures (Steri-strips), will fall off within 2 weeks as the incision heals. You may remove the tape yourself after 7 days if it is causing itching or discomfort.
- You will need to keep the incision site clean and dry for 48 hours and then you may shower.

What to Report to Your Physician:

- Redness at the incision site.
- Drainage of blood or pus from the incision site
- Fever more than 101 degrees
- Progressive swelling at the incision site (some swelling is normal)

Questions or Concerns

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