

Bronchoscopy

What is a Bronchoscopy?

- A bronchoscopy is an outpatient procedure that involves putting a thin, flexible scope through your nose or mouth into the airways of your lungs. It lets your doctor see the insides of your airways and find abnormalities not seen on a CT scan.
- A bronchoscopy is done in the operating room and it is often combined with other lung procedures.
- A biopsy (tissue sample) may be taken if an abnormality is seen. Your doctor may know the preliminary results of the procedure the same day.
- If biopsies were taken, the final pathology report will take up to 3-5 working days, and we will review it with you when you return for a postoperative visit.

How Do I Prepare for the Procedure?

- You will have an appointment in the Anesthesia Perioperative Evaluation Clinic (APEC) before your procedure. You may have some blood tests and/or a chest x-ray. The staff will discuss what you need to do before your procedure, including any changes in your daily medications. For example, if you take medications that affect blood clotting, they will let you know if/ when you should stop taking them.
- On the day before your procedure, the Ambulatory Surgery Center (ASC/3 West) will call you between **1 p.m. and 3 p.m.** with your arrival time for the next day. If you haven't gotten a call by 3 p.m. please call **716-845-8476** for your arrival time.
- **Important: Do not smoke before or after the procedure.**

What to Expect On the Day of Your Procedure

- **Eating & Drinking**
 - **If you are having general anesthesia: Do not eat or drink anything after midnight the night before the procedure** - including gum, water, or coffee.
 - **If you are having sedation: Stop eating and drinking everything except water 8 hours before your procedure. Stop drinking water 2 hours before the procedure.**
- In the morning, take **only** the medications approved during your pre-op appointment. Take them with a very small sip of water.
- If you are not sure about your medications, please contact the APEC staff for an explanation at **716-845-1673**.
- An intravenous catheter (IV) will be placed in a vein in your arm so we can give you fluids and medications.
- You will be taken to a holding area outside the operating room. Your family will not be able to join you in the holding area. Your anesthesiologist will meet you in the holding area before you are taken into the operating room.

What to Expect During the Bronchoscopy

- You will be positioned on your back. Your eyes will be covered to ensure protection.
- Your doctor may use a local anesthetic in your nose and throat that will numb the area. It's similar to the local anesthetic your dentist uses.
- You will be asked to take slow, relaxed breaths through your mouth and inhale oxygen and albuterol. This relaxes and opens up your airways for the bronchoscope.
- We will give you medication through your IV to sedate (relax) you, or to put you under general anesthesia (unconscious).
- You may cough during the procedure due to irritation from the scope, but you will still be able to breathe when the scope is in your airway.
- Your doctor will look down the airways that lead to your right and left lungs. Biopsies (taking tissue samples) or other interventions may be done, as you and your doctor discussed before the procedure.

After the Bronchoscopy

- You will be in the Recovery Room (Post-Anesthesia Care Unit or PACU) for about 1 hour. We will watch you closely in the PACU. When you are stable, you can return to 2 West or 3 West until you're discharged.
- You can eat and drink when anesthesia has worn off (gag reflex is back to normal) and you are fully awake.
- You may have throat irritation 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. Tell your doctor if your temperature is 100.4°F (38°C) or higher.
- You may have blood-tinged mucous for 3-4 days, especially if a biopsy was done during the procedure.

What to Report to Your Physician

Call your doctor immediately if you have:

- increased shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chest pain, or coughing up large amounts of bright red blood
- temperature above 100.4°F (38.3 °C)

Questions or Concerns?

Call the Thoracic Center at **716-845-3167** Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. After hours, call **716-845-2300** and ask for your doctor.