

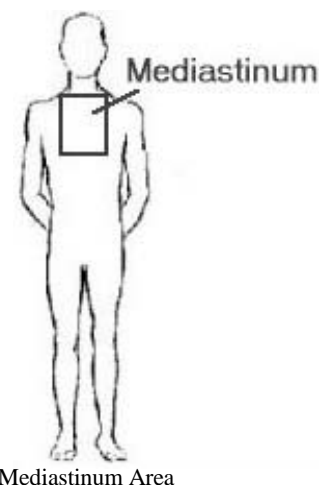
Mediastinotomy

Purpose

A **mediastinotomy** (Chamberlain procedure) is a surgical procedure that is done so the doctor can:

- Diagnose a problem in the mediastinum or hilum
- Surgically remove tissue to help determine a diagnosis

The **mediastinum** is the central part of the chest and contains the trachea (windpipe), heart, major vessels, and lymph nodes. The **hilum** is the root of the lung that contains major blood vessels, lymph nodes, and breathing tubes (bronchi) for the lungs.



Preparation

The night before your surgery, use Hibiclens® soap to scrub your chest from neck to waist and under your arms.

Procedure

While you are asleep in the operating room, a small incision will be made on one side of your upper chest (just below your collar bone) or between the second and third ribs. The incision will be about 2 to 3 inches (5 to 7.5 cm) long.

If a tumor is found, a tissue sample will be sent to be examined by a pathologist in the laboratory. A report will be returned to the surgeon in minutes. The report and what the surgeon sees will help the doctor(s) to determine what type of treatment is best for you. The surgeon will remove only enough tissue to allow the pathologist to make a diagnosis. Your lungs will breathe normally during the procedure.

After the Procedure

You will wake up in the Recovery Room, where you will stay for observation. Tubes will connect you to equipment used to monitor your condition. This is standard for this type of surgery. Depending on your condition, the tubes will be removed soon after you wake up.

Most patients are returned to a regular hospital room the day of surgery, and remain in the hospital for 1 to 2 days. It is **very important** that you do your deep breathing and coughing exercises as instructed, both in the hospital and after you go home. Occasionally, patients are discharged on the day of surgery.

One of two types of stitches may be used to close the incision. One type of stitches dissolves, the other type is removed 7 to 10 days after surgery.

Follow-up visits will be scheduled for you.

A small portion of rib may be removed during surgery. If a portion is removed, you may see movement of the skin (around the incision) when breathing. This movement usually lessens within a few weeks. In thin patients, however, movement of the skin when breathing may continue longer than the usual 4 to 8-week healing period.

Please contact your doctor or nurse if you:

- Cough up red-, rusty-, or brown-colored sputum
- Become short of breath
- Develop a fever or redness around the incision site

Reviewed 1/2020