

## Bronchoscopy

A bronchoscopy is a procedure that allows your doctor to view your airways, which includes the:

- Trachea (windpipe)
- Bronchi (large air tubes leading to the lungs)
- Lungs

A flexible tube, called a bronchoscope, is inserted through your nose or mouth and down into the airways. A tissue sample, called a biopsy, is collected for analysis.

Bronchoscopes are used to:

- Identify lung illnesses
- Remove blockages from the airways
- See how well the area has healed after treatment.

## Preparation

Your procedure is on \_\_\_\_\_ (Date) at \_\_\_\_\_ (Time).

- You will meet with a member of your health care team. You will have an opportunity to ask questions or address any concerns.
- You will be asked to sign a consent form.
- Do not** eat or drink anything after midnight before your procedure.
- Let your doctor know if you are taking blood thinning medicines, such as Coumadin®. You may need to stop taking them before your procedure.
- Do not** smoke before the procedure and for at least two hours after the procedure. Smoking increases the amount of throat irritation.
- If you are taking your medicines, take them with a sip of water the morning of the procedure.
- Tell your doctor of all the medicines you are taking including any over-the-counter medicines and supplements.

## Procedure

- Arrive one hour **before** your scheduled procedure time.
- The nurse will complete an assessment.
- You will change into a hospital gown.
- Remove your dentures if you wear them.
- An intravenous (IV) line is placed in your hand or arm. Medicine is given through the IV to make you sleepy and comfortable.
- Your vital signs are monitored
- Medicine is sprayed to numb the inside of your nose, tongue and throat.
- The doctor will insert the bronchoscope through your nose or mouth. As the tube passes down your throat, it may cause you to cough.
- Oxygen is given to help you breathe.
- Medicine is given through the tube to help relax your airways.
- The procedure will take approximately 45 minutes to complete.

## After the Procedure

- You will be taken to a recovery area.
- Do not** eat or drink anything two hours after the procedure.
- Do not** drive or operate heavy machinery until the day after the procedure.
- You must have a responsible adult drive you home after the procedure.
- Do not** smoke for at least two hours after the procedure. Smoking causes throat irritation.
- Tell your doctor if you have chest pain, or if breathing becomes painful or difficult.
- Ask your doctor about when to resume taking your blood thinning medicine.
- Notify your nurse or doctor if you have a temperature above 101°F (38.3°C).
- Mild soreness and hoarseness in your throat can occur.
- You may see small specks of blood in your mouth or sputum (saliva, or mucus coughed up) for a short period. Although this is normal, tell your doctor or nurse immediately if the amount of blood increases.
- You may return to your normal activities the next day after the procedure.
- Results of the tissue samples taken during the procedure take 48 to 72 hours to process. However, some test may take up to 8 weeks to complete. Make arrangements with your doctor to review your test results.
- Go to the nearest emergency room, or call 911 for any urgent medical issues.

## Additional Instructions

You may eat or drink at \_\_\_\_\_ (nothing before this time).

## Emergency Center

In case of any emergency, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency center. *For non-emergencies during business hours, call our triage line at 904-202-7300 option 4.*

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