



Patient Guide to Bronchoscopy

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A bronchoscopy is a test where we can examine your breathing passages with a small flexible telescope. Your bronchoscopy will be performed with local anaesthetic.

1. Do not take Aspirin or any anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAID's) for 1 week before the procedure.
2. Please have nothing to eat or drink for 6 hours prior to the procedure
3. Take your usual morning tablets with a small sip of water.
4. Before the procedure, the nurses will give you an anaesthetic lozenge to suck Ventolin via a nebuliser to minimize bronchospasm.
5. An intravenous cannula will be inserted into your hand or arm for intravenous drugs.
6. You will be given oxygen to breath and local anaesthetic spray will be given to make your nose and throat numb, either through a nasal cannula or through your mouth.
7. As the bronchoscope is passed down your nose or mouth, more local anaesthetic liquid will be administered down the bronchoscope.
8. After the test, you may be a bit sleepy. Please do not eat or drink for another 2 hours.

If you are a day patient

1. Report to the Endoscopy Unit at the arranged time.
2. Please bring with you any x-rays or CT scans of your chest as requested.
3. Please arrange to be picked up after the procedure (usually 2-3 hours). The anaesthetic can impair driving.

If you are to have transbronchial lung biopsies, you will be placed under an x-ray machine throughout the procedure. If you could be pregnant, please notify us in advance as the procedure will not be done.

The main complications of transbronchial biopsies can be

- a. Pneumothorax
- b. Haemorrhage.

In the 12 hours following the bronchoscopy you may:

- * Cough up small amounts of blood
- * Have a fever
- * Have a sore throat and hoarse voice
- * Feel sick

Contact Dr Allen or the hospital if you have:

- * A fever that does not go away
- * Vomiting
- * More than a tablespoon of blood when you cough

Contact Dr Allen or hospital IMMEDIATELY IF YOU HAVE:

- * Shortness of breath
- * Chest pain
- * If you coughed up more than a quarter of a cupful of blood
- * Passed out or fainted.

Appointment date: _____