



Procedure Information

Bronchoscopy

Introduction

Bronchoscopy is a procedure that a thin and flexible endoscope is inserted via the mouth or nose and passed into the trachea and tracheo-bronchial tree for visualization and examination of major airways of the lungs. Doctor can use instruments to take biopsy for pathological examination and to deliver therapies when necessary.



Source:
<https://www.lhsc.on.ca/thoracic-surgery/thoracic-surgery-83>

Indications

1. Therapeutic
 - Removal of foreign objects
 - Haemostasis
 - Removal of retained or impacted secretions
2. Diagnostic
 - Haemoptysis
 - Swelling of cervical lymph node
 - Persistent cough
 - Dysphagia
 - Hoarseness of voice
 - Dyspnoea or wheezing
 - Persistent chest pain
 - Abnormal chest X-ray result

Outcomes

The expected outcomes of this procedure are determined on different indications. It allows the doctor to see the breathing passages in order to obtain diagnostic information. If needed, the doctor can take samples of mucus or tissue (biopsies) inside of the lungs. In addition, this procedure can be used for removing an inhaled foreign body and hemostasis.

Procedures

1. The blood pressure, pulse rate and oxygen saturation are closely monitored during the procedure.
2. You are kept in a supine position.
3. Nostrils and throat are sprayed with local anaesthetic agent to reduce discomfort. Intravenous sedation, monitored anaesthetic care or general anaesthesia may be administered if necessary.
4. The bronchoscope is inserted through the nose or mouth into the tracheo-bronchial tree to visualize the inside of the lungs.
5. Biopsies may be taken for further examinations.
6. Airway irritation resulting in coughing may happen during the procedure.

Possible Risks and Complications

1. Cardiac dysrhythmias
2. Pneumothorax
3. Haemoptysis
4. Respiratory tract infection
5. Chest infection
6. Bronchospasm
7. Damage to teeth

** The risks listed above are in general terms and the possibility of complications is not exhaustive. Please understand that even though all examinations are carried out with utmost professionalism and care, this does not rule out the possibility of complications arising.

Pre-procedure Preparations

1. The procedures and possible complications will be explained by the doctor and a consent form must be signed prior to the procedure.
2. Please inform the doctor if you are or might be pregnant.
3. Please inform the doctor and nurse all your past medical history, previous surgical operations, current medication and any complication with drug or anaesthesia.
4. Relevant examinations such as blood tests, ECG-heart tracing and chest x-ray may be performed.
5. No food or drink six hours before procedure.
6. Please change into a surgical gown after removing all clothing including undergarments, dentures, jewellery and contact lenses.
7. Please empty your bladder before the procedure.

Post-procedure Instructions

General

1. You may feel sleepiness or dizziness after anaesthesia. Bed rest for a few hours is recommended.
2. Please inform the nurse in the event of pain or shortness of breath.
3. Mild cough, sore throat, voice hoarse and blood-stained sputum may be occurred for a short period of time after the procedure.
4. Chest X-ray may be required if biopsy is taken during the procedure.
5. You are usually discharged on the same day or next day after the procedure. Patients with potential risks may be hospitalized for observation of complications such as significant bleeding or pneumothorax etc.

Diet

A normal diet can be resumed two hours after the procedure when gag reflex returns. Please follow the healthcare provider's advice.

Advice on Discharge

1. If you are discharged on the same day of the procedure, be reminded not to drive, operate machinery or sign legal documents for the rest of the day.
2. Adequate rest should be taken in the first 24 – 48 hours.
3. If biopsies have been taken, it is normal to cough up a little blood for a few days.
4. Immediately consult your doctor or return to hospital for professional attention in the event of shortness of breath, massive haemoptysis, vomiting, shivering, high fever over 38°C or 100°F, or any other unusual symptoms.
5. Any follow-up consultations should be attended as scheduled.

Should there be any enquiries or concerns, please consult the attending doctor.

Under the professional care of the doctor, you will gradually recover. We wish you all the best during your treatment and recovery.

If you have any questions after reading the entire leaflet, please write them down in the spaces provided in order for the doctor to further follow-up.

Compiled by Union Hospital Operating Theatre (OT) Governance Committee

The above information is for reference only, please enquire your physician for details
Our Hospital reserves the RIGHT to amend any information in this leaflet without prior notification

