



## Bronchoscopy

Bronchoscopy enables your doctor to visualize the inside of your airways. A flexible bronchoscope is inserted through the mouth or nose. The doctor first examines the vocal cords. He then advances the scope into the trachea and further down into the bronchus carefully examining the inside lining of the airway. The doctor looks for any abnormalities of the airway. He may collect fluid samples or a tiny tissue sample from inside the airway by brushing the area or obtaining a tiny biopsy. These samples are sent to the laboratory for microscopic inspection and testing.

Bronchoscopy is done to evaluate a person who may be coughing, having difficulty breathing or is bleeding from the lungs. It will help in the diagnosis of lung diseases. It may be needed to remove an object that is blocking the airway.

### Prior to the procedure:

You should not eat or drink anything after midnight the day before your procedure – or for at least 8 hours prior to the start of your procedure. Please discuss with your doctor whether he wants you to take any of your daily medicines on the morning of your procedure, for example, medicine for your blood pressure.

### What to expect during the procedure:

Your doctor will give you medicine through an IV to help you relax and be more comfortable during the procedure. For your safety, a monitor will record your blood pressure, pulse, blood oxygen levels, as well as the heart rate and rhythm continuously throughout the procedure. You will lie comfortably on your back or in a sitting position as your doctor passes the flexible bronchoscope through your mouth or nose and into the airway. The bronchoscope doesn't interfere with your breathing. Most patients consider the test only slightly uncomfortable. Your doctor may use fluoroscopy (x-ray) to assist him during the procedure.

### What to expect after the procedure:

The procedure itself usually takes 20 to 30 minutes, although you should plan on being at the hospital for about two to three hours. This includes preparation and recovery time. The medicine you receive may make it difficult for you to remember what the doctor or nurses tell you after your procedure. It is helpful to have someone with you who can also hear the instructions and stay with you on the day of the procedure. If you receive medicine for sedation, you cannot operate machinery or drive a motorized vehicle for 24 hours after the procedure. Please make arrangements for someone to be at the hospital to take you home.