



Endobronchial Ultrasound (EBUS)

Endobronchial ultrasound, also referred to as EBUS, is a procedure that combines both traditional bronchoscopy and ultrasound imaging to obtain information about the airway and surrounding tissue. With EBUS, a small ultrasound transducer is embedded with a microchip television camera on the tip of a bronchoscope. The scope is inserted into airway through the nose or mouth. The EBUS transducer gets closer to the organs than with traditional ultrasound, so the images are more accurate and more detailed. EBUS provides information about the airways, as well as adjacent structures such as lymph nodes and blood vessels.

Abnormalities seen with ultrasound imaging can be biopsied using a process called fine needle aspiration or FNA. Endobronchial Ultrasound (EBUS) gives your doctor the ability to visualize and safely biopsy lymph nodes as small as one centimeter. This is very helpful in determining if a lesion is benign or if it needs more immediate attention. Cytopathologists are available to analyze the biopsy in the laboratory to assist with an immediate diagnosis.

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.

What to expect after the procedure:

The procedure itself usually takes about 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.