

Robotic Assisted Bronchoscopy (ION)

What is a ION?

Ion is used to perform robotic-assisted bronchoscopy. This system can reach all segments of the lungs and be placed to obtain a biopsy. The doctor can directly visualize the precise biopsy location aiding in diagnosing and managing lung disease accurately.

How do I prepare for the ION?

- Be sure to follow the specific diet instructions given by your provider.
- Dentures and eyeglasses will be removed before the procedure.
- If you are taking Coumadin, Plavix, or other blood thinners, let your doctor know.
- Be sure to let your doctor know if you are pregnant.
- Be sure to complete your CT scan before the procedure.
- Arrange for a driver and someone to be with you for the day. You will not be allowed to drive if you receive sedation.

What are the potential complications?

- Undesired effects from anesthesia.
- Bleeding from the site of a biopsy.
- Pneumothorax (collapsed lung).
- Infection.
- Airway injury.
- Complications from unrelated disease.
- If you have any questions, please contact your doctor.

What should I expect before the ION?

- Your doctor will explain the risks and benefits of the test to you.
- You will sign a consent form for the procedure.
- A small IV will be put in a vein to give you fluid and anesthesia medications.

What should I expect during the ION?

- You will be lying on an X-ray table on your back for the test.
- General anesthesia will be used to put you to sleep.
- A tube will be placed in your airway to help you breathe during the test.
- Your blood pressure, pulse, and oxygen levels will be monitored during the procedure.
- Your doctor may take biopsies (small pieces of lung tissue or lymph node) during the procedure.

What can I expect after the ION?

- After the procedure, your lungs may be bothered, and you may cough a lot; this will go away slowly.
- You may experience a sore throat or hoarseness.
- If samples or biopsies are taken, you may cough up blood-tinged spit.
- You will not be allowed to eat or drink anything for two hours after the procedure.
- A follow up chest X-ray will be taken in the recovery area.
- Your blood pressure, pulse, and oxygen levels will be monitored in the recovery area.
- Your family and friends can be with you in recovery.
- You might have oxygen on for a short time.

- If you are taking Coumadin, Plavix, or other blood thinners, ask your doctor when to restart those specific medications.
- Depending on your procedure results, your doctor may want you to stay in the hospital overnight for observation.
- The nurse will give you written discharge instructions before you leave.

When will I get my results?

- Your doctor will tell you what was found before you go home.
- You will receive a phone call explaining your biopsy results in five to seven days following your procedure.

References

Intuitive Surgical. (2023). Lung Biopsy. *Patient Education*.