

What is a bronchoscopy?

Bronchoscopy is a procedure that lets your doctor look at your airway using a flexible tube called a bronchoscope. During a bronchoscopy, your doctor will look at your throat, larynx (voice box), trachea, and the inside of your lungs.

How do I prepare for the bronchoscopy?

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

What are the potential complications?

- Undesired effects from anesthesia.
- Bleeding from the site of a biopsy.
- Pneumothorax (collapsed lung). This happens in less than five percent of patients.
- Complications from unrelated disease.
- If you have any questions, please contact your doctor.

What should I expect before the bronchoscopy?

- 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.
- Your blood pressure, pulse and oxygen levels will be monitored.

What should I expect during the bronchoscopy?

- Moderate sedation or general anesthesia will be used to put you to sleep.
- You will get oxygen during the bronchoscopy.
- Your blood pressure, pulse, respirations, and oxygen levels will be monitored during the bronchoscopy.
- The bronchoscope will be put in your mouth or nose.
- The doctor may take samples or biopsies (small pieces of lung tissue) to send to the laboratory. Taking biopsies will not be painful.

What can I expect after the bronchoscopy?

- After the test, your lungs maybe bothered, and you may cough a lot. This will go away slowly.
- 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.
- Your blood pressure, pulse and oxygen levels will be monitored in the recovery area.
- Your family and friends can be with you after the procedure.
- 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.
- 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.