

## WHAT IS BRONCHOSCOPY?

(Brong-kos-ko-pee)

A bronchoscopy is a direct examination of the main windpipe and the lungs. It is done to diagnose diseases of the lungs or to remove mucus or objects from the airways.

## HOW IS IT DONE?

The bronchoscope (brong-ke-skop) is a small flexible tube about the size of the average pencil. After your throat is numbed, it can be inserted through the nose or the mouth. It is moved past the voice box, down the wind-pipe, and into your lungs. During the procedure you will not be able to talk. The doctor can look down the tube into your lungs, can check almost any area, and can take samples when necessary (a biopsy).

## WHAT HAPPENS BEFORE THE BRONCHOSCOPY?

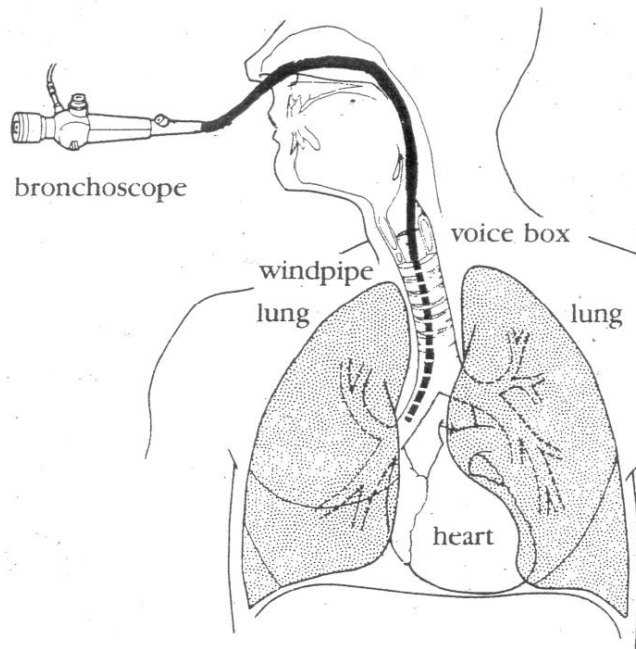
**You will not be allowed to eat or smoke after midnight. You may have up to 12 ounces of clear liquids until two hours prior to your exam. Do not take Aspirin or Aspirin containing products for 5 days before exam.**

## WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE BRONCHOSCOPY?

1. You must have someone drive you home after the procedure. Have them here about.

\_\_\_\_\_ am / pm

2. You will not eat or drink after the bronchoscopy for about 1 hour. We will have you take a sip of water first. If the water goes down without difficulty, then you can eat your regular diet. If the water doesn't go down easily, wait about 20 minutes and try again.
3. You may have a sore throat, be hoarse, and have trouble swallowing for a short period of time. You can use throat lozenges for the discomfort.



4. It is normal for a patient to cough up blood streaked sputum for a couple days after the procedure. If you should cough up more than 2 tablespoons of bright red blood, please report to the emergency department and tell them that you have had this procedure. The ER Department will contact the Pulmonary Doctor on call.
5. Should you run a temperature over 102°R take your usual remedy.
6. Should it stay over 102 °F, please report to the emergency department.
7. Biopsy results take a few days and cultures take three days to six weeks. Your doctor will explain the results at a later time.
8. No driving for 24 hrs after procedure.
9. You should not sign any legal papers for 24 hours after exam.

## WHAT COMPLICATIONS MAY OCCUR?

The risks of bronchoscopy are very low. Thousands of these procedures are done each year without complication. Complications rarely occur. Your doctors will take steps to reduce the chance of problems and will promptly correct reactions if they occur.

The local anesthetic used can cause allergic reactions. Tell your doctor if you have had allergic reactions to "local" anesthetics (numbing agents) before. Some patients may have an irregular heart beat during the bronchoscopy. If your doctor thinks this is a risk for you, special monitors will be used to detect serious problems and allow prompt treatment.

**Bleeding:** During lung tissue biopsies, there is a slight possibility that bleeding or collapse of the lung (air leakage) might occur. If bleeding does occur, it is usually minor and will stop on its own. If necessary the doctor will use medicines to stop the bleeding. Only in rare cases is the bleeding hard to control and life threatening.

**Lung Collapse:** If biopsies of lung tissue are taken, there is a slight chance of air leaking between the lung and the chest wall. If this happens, the air is usually absorbed into the bloodstream without treatment. On rare occasions the doctor may have to drain the air with a small tube placed into the chest. The tube is then removed as soon as the leakage stops.

## FOR OUTPATIENTS

Your bronchoscopy is scheduled for:

\_\_\_\_\_ am / pm

**Check in: Main Admitting Desk Northwest Hospital one hour before your bronchoscopy time.**

206 368-1716

Endoscopy Unit phone 206 368-1770