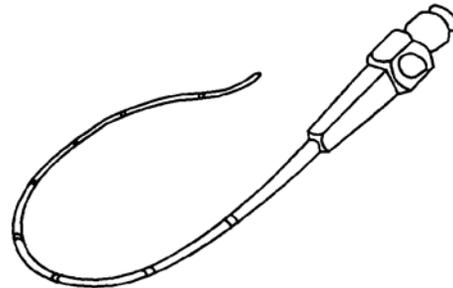


# Bronchoscopy

A bronchoscopy is a test done to look at your airways and lungs. A small tube called a bronchoscope is put through your nose or mouth. It has a light and camera at the tip that lets the doctor see the air passages of your lungs. The bronchoscope is very thin and bends easily. It has a control button that the doctor uses to guide the tube.



Tissue samples may be taken during the test. The walls of the windpipe may also be brushed and rinsed. This loosens cells that can be removed and checked.

## To Prepare

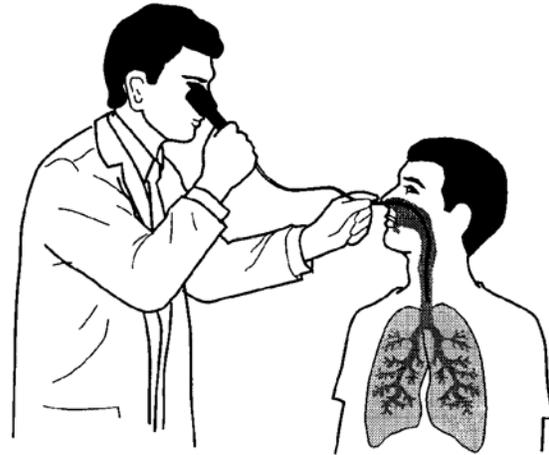
- Ask your doctor if you should take your medicines the morning of the test. If so, take your pills with small sips of water.
- If your test is scheduled for in the morning, **do not eat or drink anything after midnight the night before.**
- If the test will be done in the afternoon, you may have clear liquids for breakfast, such as apple juice, white grape juice, tea or coffee without milk products added, and water.

More on next page →

Learn more about your health care.

## During the Bronchoscopy

- You are seated or lie on a table during the procedure.
- An IV (intravenous) is put in a vein in your arm.
- You will be given medicines to help you relax and make you comfortable.
- Heart monitor pads are put on your chest to check your heart rate and rhythm. For men, chest hair may need to be shaved.
- A blood pressure cuff is put on your arm. Your blood pressure and heart rate are checked often.
- A clip is put on your finger to check the oxygen level in your blood. You may be given oxygen to breathe during the test.
- Your mouth and nose are sprayed with numbing medicine.
- After the numbing medicine begins to work, the doctor puts the bronchoscope into your nose or mouth. You will be sedated, but you may feel the need to cough. You will be able to swallow and breathe.
- The doctor removes mucus and a tissue sample if needed. The tube is then removed.



## After the Bronchoscopy

- The nurse will check you often for about 1 hour after the test.
- Medicines given during the test will make you sleepy. You will need to have an adult family member or friend take you home for your safety. You should wait 12 to 24 hours before driving, making major decisions or operating equipment.
- It takes about 2 hours for the numbing medicine to wear off, and then you may eat and drink.
- You may have a sore nose or throat, a hoarse voice or a cough. It is normal to cough up a few teaspoons of blood-tinged mucus for 24 to 36 hours after the test.

- Your doctor will tell you what was seen in your air passages. If samples of tissue, cells or mucus were sent for testing, the results will be ready in a few days.
- Ask your doctor what you may use to help with pain or soreness.
- You may restart your routine medicines unless you are instructed otherwise.
- Do not use medicine that makes you sleepy for 8 hours after this test.
- For the first day or until throat pain disappears:
  - ▶ Eat a soft or liquid diet for a day or until your throat feels better.
  - ▶ Avoid very hot foods or liquids. Drink plenty of water unless told otherwise.

### **Call your doctor if you:**

- Have a temperature over 101 degrees
- Are not able to swallow
- Have more than a few teaspoons of bloody mucus

### **Seek medical help right away - call 911 for these problems:**

Most people do not have any severe problems after this test. Some problems could be serious. If you have any of these, get emergency care:

- Trouble breathing
- New or worse chest pain
- A lot of bleeding from your nose or mouth

- **Talk to your doctor or others on your health care team if you have questions. You may request more written information from the Library for Health Information at (614) 293-3707 or email: [health-info@osu.edu](mailto:health-info@osu.edu).**