

## Flexible Bronchoscopy: A Direct Examination of the Airways

### What is bronchoscopy?

Bronchoscopy is a way of looking at the air passages by going through the nose and vocal cords into the airways of the lungs with a camera or 'scope'. Bronchoscopy is used to look at the airway structure, take samples of fluid or to find swelling and infection in the lungs.

Bronchoscopy is performed with a bendable camera or 'scope' that lets the doctor see around corners and into smaller airways. The scope is small, about the size of a piece of spaghetti.

### Before a Bronchoscopy

- If your child is old enough to understand the procedure, explain it to them before you get to the hospital. If you need more information, please ask your doctor or nurse.
- Your child will be given medicine to help them relax and become sleepy. The time it takes to do the procedure varies. You should plan to stay at the hospital for at least 2 hours after the bronchoscopy to let any medicines wear off before leaving.
- Your child should have no solid foods for 8 hours, no formula for 6 hours, no breast milk for 4 hours and no clear liquids for 2 hours before the bronchoscopy.
- Be sure to tell your doctor if your child has any allergies and what medicines they are taking.
- Please call us 24 hours before the procedure if your child has cold or a fever. We may need to reschedule the procedure if your child has one or both of these.
- If your child is on non-invasive ventilation (CPAP or Bipap), please bring those machines to your appointment.

### During a Bronchoscopy

- You may stay with your child during the preparation time. You will be asked to leave the room when the procedure begins.
- Your child will get local painkiller to numb the nose and throat. They will also breathe in medicine and may be given IV medicines to help them relax, get sleepy and to stop coughing and gagging.
- The bronchoscope is small enough to breathe around. If your child needs help breathing or needs oxygen, it will be given through a mask. The bronchoscope can also give oxygen.

### After a Bronchoscopy

- Your child should not eat or drink anything for at least 1 hour after the procedure or until the numbness in their mouth and throat wears off.
- The doctor will talk about results of the exam with you. Often the exam is recorded on a computer and the doctor will show this to you.

## IN CARE OF KIDS

- The results of the fluid sample will be ready in a day or so, but culture results can take from 3 days to 6 weeks. We will call you when we get these results. If you have not heard about the results of the cultures within 1 week, call our office.
- Complications are rare. Your child may get a sore throat or have a nosebleed. You may treat the sore throat with Tylenol. If your child has a nosebleed, put gentle pressure to the outside of the nose for 10 minutes. If it keeps bleeding, reapply pressure for 10 more minutes.
- If your child has a lung washing (bronchial lavage for a fluid sample), there is about a 50% chance that they will have a fever of 101 - 103 F the night after the bronchoscopy. Give your child Tylenol and watch carefully to make sure they seem well. Please call us if your child's fever does not come down within a couple of hours after taking Tylenol.

### Please call us if your child develops any of the following:

- Fever over 101 F and not responding to Tylenol or a fever that lasts more than 24 hours
- Trouble breathing
- Repeated throwing up
- A nosebleed that doesn't stop bleeding after 20 minutes of gentle pressure

**Our phone number is 720-777-6181.**

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**Author: Respiratory | Approved by Patient Education Committee | Valid through 2025**

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