

## Bronchoscopy: A Direct Examination of the Airways

Bronchoscopy is the medical word for looking at the air passages from the nose through the vocal cords and into the airways of the lungs with a camera or 'scope'. Bronchoscopy is used to look at the airway structure and to gather samples of fluid to diagnose inflammation and infection in the lungs.

Bronchoscopy is performed with a flexible camera or 'scope' that permits the physician to see around corners and into smaller airways. The scope is small enough to breathe around throughout the procedure (about the size of a piece of spaghetti).

### Before Bronchoscopy

1. If your child is old enough to understand the procedure, explain it to him/her before you arrive at the hospital. If you need more information, please ask your physician or nurse.
2. The medications given to your child will help him/her relax and become sleepy. The time it takes to perform the procedure varies. Plan to be at The Children's Hospital for at least 2 hours after the bronchoscopy to allow any medications to wear off before leaving.
3. 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.
4. You will be asked to sign a consent form before the examination. At the time of consent, the procedure will be discussed with you and any questions you have will be answered by the physician who will be performing the procedure.
5. Be sure to tell your physician if your child has any known allergies and all current medications he/she is taking.
6. 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.

### During Bronchoscopy

1. You may remain with your child during the preparation period. You will be asked to leave the room during the actual bronchoscopy.
2. Your child will receive local anesthetic to numb the nose and throat. This will help to relieve discomfort during the procedure. Your child will also breathe in medication and may be given IV medications to prevent coughing and gagging and to help your child to relax and become sleepy.
3. The bronchoscope is small enough to breathe around. If your child needs help breathing or needs oxygen, it will be supplied through a mask. The bronchoscope can also provide oxygen.

### After Bronchoscopy

1. After completion of the procedure your child should not eat or drink until the numbness wears off. This is usually in an hour or so.
2. The physician will discuss results of the examination with you. Often the examination is recorded on a computer and the physician will show this to you.

3. The results of the fluid sample will be available in a day or so but culture results take from 3 days to 6 weeks. We will contact you when we receive these results. If you have not heard about the results of the cultures within 1 week, contact our office.
4. Complications are rare. Your child may develop a sore throat or nose bleed. You may treat the sore throat with Tylenol. If your child develops a nose bleed, apply gentle pressure to the outside of the nose for 10 minutes. If there is still bleeding, reapply pressure for 10 more minutes.
5. If your child has a lung washing (bronchial lavage for a fluid sample), there is about a 50% chance that he/she will have a fever of 101 - 103 F the night following the bronchoscopy. Give your child Tylenol and observe carefully to make sure he/she seems well. Please contact us if your child's fever does not come down within a couple of hours.

**Please call us if your child develops any of the following**

1. Fever greater than 101 F and not responding to Tylenol or a fever that lasts more than 24 hours.
2. Difficulty breathing
3. Repeated vomiting
4. A nose bleed that doesn't stop bleeding after 20 minutes of gentle pressure

**The phone number to reach us is 720-777-6181.**