

Bronchoscopy

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This fact sheet is for general information about this procedure only. It is not intended to be used as medical advice or to replace advice that your relevant healthcare professional would give you. If you have a particular medical problem, please consult a healthcare professional.

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A bronchoscopy is a procedure to look for any problems inside your airways (bronchi) using a flexible telescope.

What are the benefits?

A bronchoscopy is a good way of finding out if there is a problem.

Are there any alternatives?

An x-ray, scan or biopsy (removing small pieces of tissue) may give information about the cause of the problem but a bronchoscopy often leads to a diagnosis.

What will happen if I decide not to have the procedure or the procedure is delayed?

Your doctor may not be able to confirm what the problem is, and your symptoms may get worse. If they do you should speak to your doctor.

If you decide not to have a bronchoscopy, you should discuss this carefully with your doctor.

What does the procedure involve?

The endoscopist may offer you a sedative or painkiller to help you to relax and feel more comfortable.

A bronchoscopy usually takes less than 15 minutes. Your doctor will pass a flexible telescope (bronchoscope) through your mouth or nostrils and down into your lungs.

Your doctor will use the bronchoscope to examine your airways. To help make the diagnosis, your doctor can perform biopsies and they may place a small amount of fluid in your lungs and then remove it.

What complications can happen?

Some complications may be serious and can even be life threatening.

- Shortness of breath
- Bleeding
- Developing a high temperature

- Developing a sore throat, husky voice or a cough getting worse
- Allergic reaction
- Death. This is rare

What happens after the procedure?

If you were given a sedative, you will usually recover in about 2 hours but this depends on how much sedative you were given.

You should be able to return to work the next day unless you are told otherwise.

The healthcare team will tell you the results of the procedure and talk to you about any treatment or follow-up care you may need.

Regular exercise should improve your long-term health. Before you start exercising, ask the healthcare team or your GP for advice.

Summary

A bronchoscopy is usually a safe and effective way of finding out if there is a problem in your airways.

Keep this information document. Use it to help you if you need to talk to the healthcare team.

Some information, such as risk and complication statistics, is taken from global studies and/or databases. Please ask your surgeon or doctor for more information about the risks that are specific to you, and they may be able to tell you about any other suitable treatments options.

This document is intended for information purposes only and should not replace advice that your relevant healthcare team would give you.

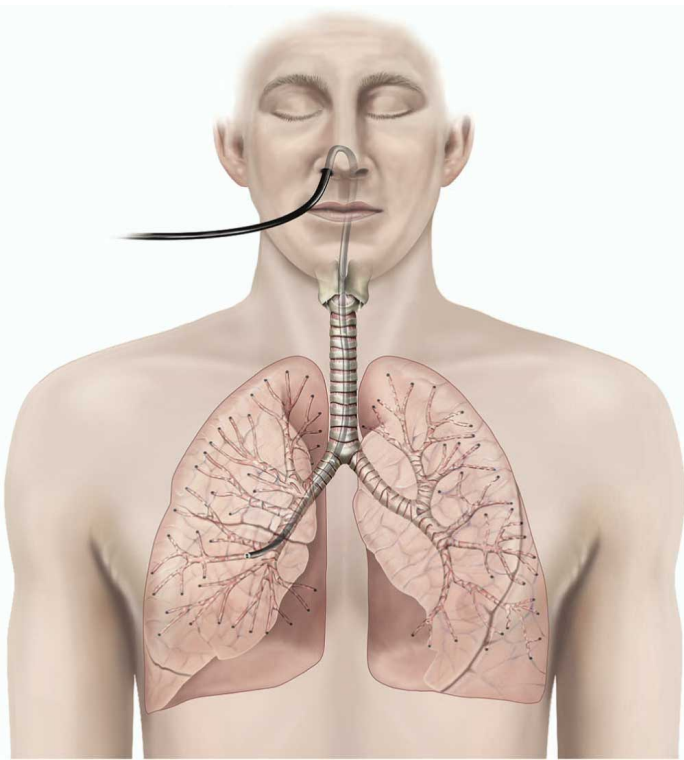
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Illustrator

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A bronchoscopy