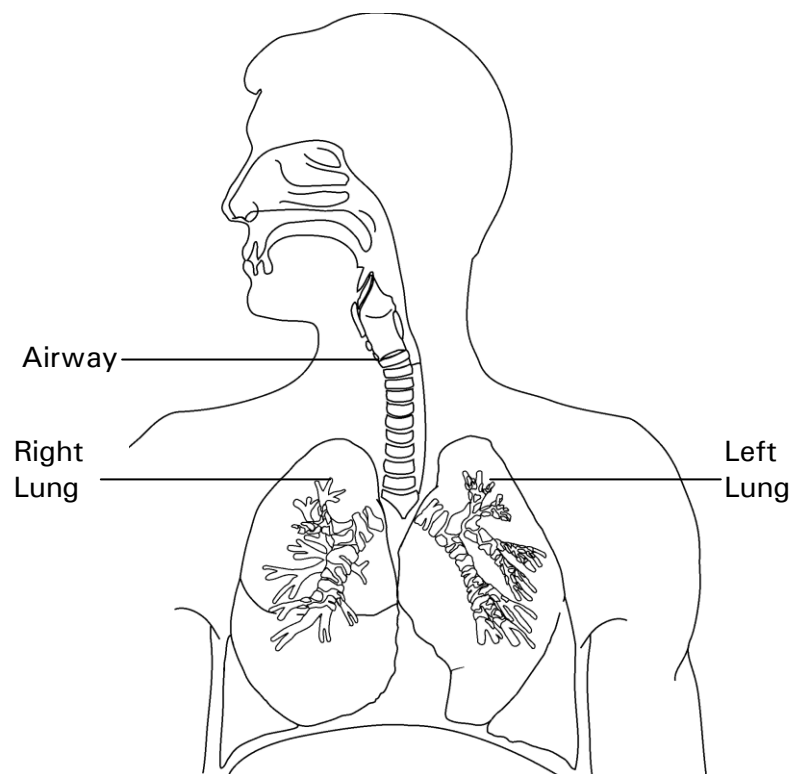


Bronchoscopy



A bronchoscopy is a procedure to look inside your airway and your lungs. The doctor uses an instrument called a bronchoscope. This is a small flexible tube with a light and camera at the end. The bronchoscope goes into your mouth or nose and down into the breathing tubes into your lungs. The doctor will look at your lungs and may take samples of secretions and tissue.

Before the bronchoscopy the back of your throat will be frozen with some medication to make it numb. You may get some medication to help you relax. This medication may be given with a needle through an intravenous line, or IV.

During the bronchoscopy you lie on your back on a stretcher. The bronchoscope is placed in your nose or mouth and guided down to the lungs. If the bronchoscope is put through your nose, the inside of your nose is frozen too. This does not interfere with your breathing. You will be able to breathe normally.

As the tube goes down you may feel the urge to cough. This is normal. More freezing medication can be given to stop the coughing. A bronchoscopy feels uncomfortable but is not usually painful.

The doctor will tell you what he or she is doing. There are nurses in the room helping you and the doctor.

How long does a bronchoscopy take?

A bronchoscopy takes about 10 to 30 minutes.

You are having your bronchoscopy on _____. Please come to the hospital at _____. You may also need to stay 1 to 2 hours after it is over. Plan to be at the hospital about 3 to 4 hours from start to finish. Please check with the nurse to see how long it will take. You may be ready earlier or you may be there longer. Make sure the nurse knows how to contact the person driving you home.

Before you come to the hospital

Do not eat anything after midnight before your bronchoscopy. This includes candies and gum. You may drink clear fluids up to 4 hours before your bronchoscopy. Clear fluids include water, soda, black coffee or tea. Do not drink orange juice or milk.

Medications

Take your usual medications the day of the test with a sip of water. There are some medications that your doctor may not want you to take. These may include:

- blood thinners such as Aspirin or Coumadin
- medications for Diabetes

Your doctor will discuss this with you.

Special instructions

If you have diabetes check your glucose as usual and bring the results with you to the hospital. You may need to have your glucose checked at the hospital.

Bring a list of your medications to the hospital. At the hospital a nurse will talk with you about your health.

You are welcome to bring an adult with you to the appointment.

Where do I go for my bronchoscopy?

- **Hamilton General Hospital** - First go to Admitting on the main floor, then you go to Same Day Surgery on the main floor.
 - **Juravinski Hospital** - First go to Admitting on the main floor, then you go to Section B, Level 3 to the Endoscopy Department.
 - **McMaster University Medical Centre** - Take the yellow elevators to the 4th floor. Turn left and follow the hallway to the 4X area on the left. Follow the signs to Endoscopy. Please check in at the Endoscopy reception desk to be registered for your procedure.
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After your bronchoscopy

You will be given instructions on how to care for yourself after your bronchoscopy when you go home.

You must have an adult drive or meet you and take you home, even if you go by taxi or bus, or your bronchoscopy may be cancelled. The person who picks you up can come to where you have had your bronchoscopy.

If you are given sedation you cannot:

- drive
- drive or ride on a motorcycle
- operate machinery
- drink any alcohol
- make major or legal decisions
- for 24 hours after the bronchoscopy.

If you have any questions call the doctor who ordered your bronchoscopy.