

Bronchoscopy

Patient Information

t: 01 806 5492 - Endoscopy Unit
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BON SECOURS HOSPITAL DUBLIN
Advanced Medicine Exceptional Care

A gloved hand holding a bronchoscope against a dark background.

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What is a Bronchoscopy?

A bronchoscopy is a test in which a hollow, flexible tube is inserted through the mouth and down into the airways allowing the doctor to look at the lower airways including the larynx, trachea, bronchi, and bronchioles.

The procedure is done under sedation. You will be asleep for the test but not under general anaesthetic. During the course of the examination, biopsies may be taken and examined.

How should I prepare for the procedure?

- It is important that you are fasting for this procedure. If your procedure is in the morning, you should fast from 12 midnight the night before. If your procedure is scheduled for the afternoon you can have a light breakfast of tea and toast at 6am. Fasting means no food. You may have clear fluids such as water up to two hours before.
- If there are strong reasons to avoid a period of fasting (such as diabetes that is difficult to control), please tell the nursing staff on admission. Please follow your consultant's instructions.
- Remove all make-up including nail varnish and jewellery before coming into hospital.

- Please bring with you a list of all medications you are taking. Do not take medications on the morning of the procedure but please bring them with you.
- If you are a diabetic, you should discuss the above instructions with your consultant. If you are taking anticoagulants/antiplatelet (blood thinning) medication, please see the instructions on your appointment letter or contact your doctor to discuss.
- You should make arrangements for a friend or relative to collect you after your procedure.

The procedure

The procedure will take place in the endoscopy unit. On arrival in the unit, you will complete your registration and a nurse/doctor assessment which will include your medical history, medications and allergies. You will be asked to change into a hospital gown. The doctor will complete a consent form and will ask for your signature giving your permission for the examination. You will be given an opportunity to ask any questions or voice any concerns you may have.

You will be given a local anaesthetic spray into your mouth and a mild sedative through a vein in your arm to make you sleepy and relaxed.

A plastic guard will be placed in your mouth to protect your teeth and the doctor will then pass a scope through your mouth/nose and into your airways. When the procedure is complete, you will be taken to the recovery area.

What can I expect after the procedure?

When you are returned to the recovery area following your procedure, you will need to rest for a short period of time. A nurse will monitor your temperature, breathing, blood pressure and pulse rate from time to time to ensure that you are comfortable.

When you are more awake you will be given water and something light to eat two hours after your procedure.

If you experience any pain or coughing, please let the nurse know. A biopsy may be taken on the day of the procedure which may cause bleeding.

You will be allowed home once you are fit enough to do so. You must be accompanied home by a responsible adult who stays with you for the night. Medications given will remain in your system for 24 hours.

Do not

- Drive for 24 hours (as your car insurance will not cover you if you have an accident).
- Drink alcohol or take sleeping tablets for 24 hours.
- Operate heavy machinery or electrical equipment as your judgment will be impaired.
- Sign any important documents during this time or make any vital decisions.
- Be responsible for any dependents.
- Take medicines or drugs not prescribed by your doctor.

What are the potential complications of Bronchoscopy?

A bronchoscopy can occasionally result in complications such as a reaction to medicines or an abrasion to the lining of the airways. This can result in swelling, inflammation or hoarseness.

You may get a fever after the procedure within 6-12 hours. If you do develop a temperature/fever, take 1-2 Paracetamol tablets or wait it out. If it persists please contact the endoscopy unit or your consultant.

A prescription may or may not be required following your procedure. You may eat and drink as you feel able. However if you feel nauseated, just have clear liquids until you feel better. If you experience pain, a pain killer might help.

Questions or concerns

If you have any questions or concerns following your procedure, please contact your consultant directly.

If you are unable to contact your consultant, please contact
Endoscopy Unit, Bon Secours Hospital Dublin
t: **01 806 5492** from 7:30am – 7:30pm

Out of hours, please call the main reception on **01 806 5300** for the out of hours nurse in charge.

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