

# BRONCHOSCOPY

**My test is on:** \_\_\_\_\_

- A bronchoscopy is a test that uses a long thin camera to look at your lungs.
- During the test, a doctor will take samples from your lungs:
  - The doctor may take **washings**. Washings are used for culture and cell analysis.
  - The doctor may take **brushings**. Brushings are used to look for inflammation and cancer.
  - The doctor may take **biopsies**. Biopsies are used to look for inflammation and cancer.
- It will not hurt when the doctor takes samples from your lungs.

## **WHAT ARE THE RISKS OF A BRONCHOSCOPY?**

A bronchoscopy is a safe test. After the test you may have:

- A mild sore throat.
- A mild hoarse voice.
- A mild fever.
- A cough with a little blood-streaked sputum.
- Fatigue (feeling tired).

Serious risks do not happen often. Risks depend on your baseline health. You should talk to your doctor about your specific risks.

Because there are some risks, you will be asked to sign a consent form.

Some risks include:

- Discomfort and coughing during the test. You will get local freezing and an IV sedative to help with this.
- Reduced oxygen levels during the test. You will get oxygen to help with this.
- Bleeding and/or coughing up blood. The risk of this is increased for people having lung biopsies.
- Lung collapse and airway injury. This risk is rare. The risk of this is increased for people with abnormal lungs and people having biopsies. A small chest drain may be needed to help re-expand the lung. This is rare.

**If you have these symptoms after your test, call your doctor and/or go to the Emergency Department right away.**

- You have a high fever.
- You are coughing up a lot of blood (more than 1-2 tablespoons).
- You have shortness of breath.
- You have chest pain.

**If you need to cancel your test**, tell your doctor's office and the Endoscopy Unit as soon as possible. You can call the Endoscopy Unit at 416-469-6580 ext. 6603.

## WHAT SHOULD I DO TO GET READY FOR MY TEST?

- Do not eat or drink anything after midnight the night before your test.
- Tell your doctor what medications you take.
- Tell your doctor any drug allergies you have.
- Tell your doctor if you have **diabetes**. You may need to stop taking your diabetes medications (like insulin) before your test.
- Tell your doctor if you are on **blood thinners or Aspirin products**. You may need to stop taking these medications before your test.
- Tell your doctor if you are **pregnant**.
- **Do not drive yourself** to your test. You will get an IV sedative for the test and you will not be able to drive home. An adult friend or family member must bring you home from your test (even if you took a taxi or public transit).

Plan to be at the hospital for **4 hours**.

The test takes about 30 minutes.

## WHAT SHOULD I DO THE DAY OF MY TEST?

- Follow all directions your doctor gave you about how to get ready for your test.
- Bring your health card to your test.
- Bring your puffer medications to your test (if you are on any).
- Register at **Patient Registration** when you get to the hospital. Patient Registration is on the first floor in the M wing.
- Check in at the **Endoscopy Suite (Outpatient Procedure Unit)** after you have registered. The Endoscopy Suite (Outpatient Procedure Unit) is **on the 2nd floor in the M wing**.

## WHAT WILL HAPPEN DURING MY TEST?

- You will get local freezing sprayed in your throat. This will help with coughing and gagging.
- You will be put on heart, blood pressure, and oxygen monitors.
- You will get an IV sedative. This will make you sleepy.
- You will have the bronchoscope camera gently inserted by the doctor. It will go through your mouth or nose and into your airways.

## WHAT WILL HAPPEN AFTER MY TEST?

- You will go to the recovery area. You will wait there for the IV sedative wear off.
- You can go home once the nurse tells you it is safe to leave. You will be discharged with the adult friend or family member that is taking you home.
- You can't drive or operate machinery for the next 24 hours.
- You shouldn't eat, drink, or smoke for at least 3 hours after your test. This is because your throat will still be frozen.
- You must see your doctor for your results.