

# Bronchoscopy

An information guide



# Bronchoscopy

## What is a bronchoscopy?

A bronchoscopy is a test which allows the doctor to perform an examination of the air passages of your lungs with a flexible endoscope.

The endoscope is a long thin tube with a bright light at the end. Small samples of your lung may be taken through the endoscope and sent to the laboratory for examination. A small number of patients will need a transbronchial biopsy (a biopsy of the lung tissue). The doctor will inform you if this is needed.

## Do I take my tablets on the day of the test?

If you are on any blood thinning tablets or injections (Warfarin, Synthron, Clopidogrel, Ticagrelor, Prasugrel, Rivaroxaban, Apixaban, Dabigatran, Edoxaban or Dalteparin) then these will need to have been stopped prior to the procedure and you may be need to be issued with alternative medicine. The doctor in clinic should have checked your medicines with you.

If you are taking any of these medicines and you have not been advised when to stop them or you are unsure please can you contact the lung nurses or respiratory secretaries to be advised when to stop these prior to the procedure.

You should take all other tablets as normal

## What happens?

Before the bronchoscopy, you may be given if you wish an injection to make you feel relaxed.

The doctor will apply local anaesthetic to the back of your throat and nose to numb the feeling. The endoscope will be passed through the nose or mouth into the lungs. It is not painful and will not interfere with your breathing. Local anaesthetic will be sprayed onto the vocal cords (voice box) and airways. This might make you cough, but it should settle down quite quickly.

The test will take about fifteen to twenty minutes. After the test You will need to wait until the local anaesthetic has worn off before you can go home. This will take one hour.

If you have had the 'relaxing' injection, you will need to arrange for someone to pick you up from the day case unit and stay with you overnight.

If you have be given the injection, you **should not** drive, drink alcohol, sign legal documents or operate machinery for **24 hours afterwards**.

## **Are there any risks?**

Bronchoscopy is extremely safe.

During the test you will be closely monitored by the experienced staff. Minor side effects include some soreness of the nose and throat for a few days after the test and mild fever that can occur in up to 50% of patients and which settles with paracetamol.

Coughing up a small amount of blood after the test is to be expected and should settle in a day or two.

More serious side effects such as breathing difficulties, chest infection and heart problems are very rare occurring in less than 1 in 1,000 patients. Risk of death is small at less than 1 in 10,000 patients.

If you have had a transbronchial biopsy, there is a small risk of air leak, (approximately 1 in 50 patients). All patients who have transbronchial biopsies will have a chest x-ray after the procedure to check for this. In 90% of patients with an air leak, no action is required. About 10% of patients who have an air leak need a chest drain inserting to allow the lung to expand.

## **Benefits**

This is the only non-surgical procedure that provides the opportunity to collect tissue samples painlessly and allows the doctors to give an accurate diagnosis.

## **Alternatives**

There are no satisfactory alternatives to this investigation to examine the lungs, but a CT scan may be used if necessary.

## **When do I get the results?**

Most patients will be given an appointment to come to the clinic in about one week's time to be given the results and to discuss the treatments which may be offered to you. Please bring your wife, husband, partner, a close family member or friend with you to the appointment.

## **If you experience problems after discharge**

Please contact the Ward which discharged you, the A&E department or your GP.

**If you need any further information please contact:**

The lung specialist nurse:

Carol Telford/Lesley Valentine

Fairfield Hospital, Bury

Tel: 0161 778 2693

Paula Hall or Jane Weir

North Manchester General Hospital

Tel: 0161 918 4057

Chrissie Charlesworth/Amanda Dand

Royal Oldham Hospital

Tel: 0161 778 5481

Please ask about anything you do not fully understand or wish to have explained in more detail.

Your bronchoscopy has been arranged

For \_\_\_\_\_

At \_\_\_\_\_

On the day of the test, do not have anything to eat after \_\_\_\_\_ You may have some water after this time until 2 hours before the test. Do not have anything to drink after \_\_\_\_\_

Please come to the:

\_\_\_\_\_ at  
\_\_\_\_\_

If you need any further information please contact:

Respiratory nurse specialist \_\_\_\_\_  
Consultant secretary \_\_\_\_\_ Day  
case/endoscopy unit \_\_\_\_\_

**If English is not your first language and you need help, please contact the Interpretation and Translation Service**

Jeśli angielski nie jest twoim pierwszym językiem i potrzebujesz pomocy, skontaktuj się z działem tłumaczeń ustnych i pisemnych

اگر انگریزی آپ کی پہلی زبان نہیں ہے اور آپ کو مدد کی ضرورت ہے تو ، براہ کرم ترجمانی اور ترجمہ خدمت سے رابطہ کریں

Dacă engleza nu este prima ta limbă și ai nevoie de ajutor, te rugăm să contactezi Serviciul de interpretare și traducere

ইংরাজী যদি আপনার প্রথম ভাষা না হয় এবং আপনার সাহায্যের প্রয়োজন হয় তবে অনুগ্রহ করে দোভাষী এবং অনুবাদ পরিষেবাটিতে যোগাযোগ করুন

إذا لم تكن الإنجليزية هي لغتك الأولى وتحتاج إلى مساعدة ، فيرجى الاتصال بخدمة الترجمة الشفوية والتحريرية

☎ : 0161 627 8770

@ : interpretation@pat.nhs.uk

To improve our care environment for Patients, Visitors and Staff, **Northern Care Alliance NHS Group** is Smoke Free including buildings, grounds & car parks.

For advice on stopping smoking contact the Specialist Stop Smoking Service on 01706 517 522

**For general enquiries please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on 0161 604 5897**

**For enquiries regarding clinic appointments, clinical care and treatment please contact 0161 624 0420 and the Switchboard Operator will put you through to the correct department / service**

The Northern Care Alliance NHS Group (NCA) is one of the largest NHS organisations in the country, employing 17,000 staff and providing a range of hospital and community healthcare services to around 1 million people across Salford, Oldham, Bury, Rochdale and surrounding areas. Our Care Organisations are responsible for providing our services, delivering safe, high quality and reliable care to the local communities they serve.

The NCA brings together Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust and the hospitals and community services of The Royal Oldham Hospital, Fairfield General Hospital in Bury, and Rochdale Infirmary (currently part of The Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust).

 [www.facebook.com/NorthernCareAllianceNHSGroup](http://www.facebook.com/NorthernCareAllianceNHSGroup)

 [www.linkedin.com/company/northern-care-alliance-nhs-group](http://www.linkedin.com/company/northern-care-alliance-nhs-group)

 Northern Care Alliance NHS Group (NCA) @NCAAlliance\_NHS

**Date of publication: January 2005**

**Date of review: August 2019**

**Date of next review: August 2021**

**Ref: PI\_M\_098**

**© The Northern Care Alliance NHS Group**

[www.pat.nhs.uk](http://www.pat.nhs.uk)

[www.northerncarealliance.nhs.uk](http://www.northerncarealliance.nhs.uk)

