



How you want to be treated.

# **Bronchoscopy Procedures**

## **St. Paul's Hospital**

1081 Burrard Street,  
Vancouver BC V6Z 1Y6

Tel: 604-682-2344, local 62437

Medical Short Stay Unit (MSSU),  
Ward 8D, Providence Building

### Your Bronchoscopy is scheduled for:

Date of Test: \_\_\_\_\_

Report to MSSU at: \_\_\_\_\_

Report to Medical Short Stay Unit (8D)  
St. Paul's Hospital

If you do not speak English well, someone who does speak English well must come with you and stay with you during the entire day.

請不懂英語之朋友注意:  
若閣下需要到本院留院或診療室  
檢驗,請帶同翻譯員前來協助解釋  
一切程序。多謝合作。

You cannot be sent home alone. Someone must come to the Unit to pick you up. **You must not drive for 24 hours after the procedure.** You are considered legally impaired because of the medication the doctor gives you to help you relax during the test.



## What you need to do

For your safety it is important that you follow all these directions.

If you have any questions, call your doctor's office.

## Preparation for the Bronchoscopy

In order for the procedure to be done you must not eat *or drink* anything after midnight the night before your procedure (including water, coffee, gum, candies and antacids).

If you are taking medication to thin your blood please speak to your doctor prior to the procedure.

If you have diabetes, check with your doctor to see if you should still take your insulin or other diabetes medicine on the morning of the procedure, or if you should skip that dose.

If you are on any other medication you should take them two or more hours before the test with a sip of water before coming to the hospital.

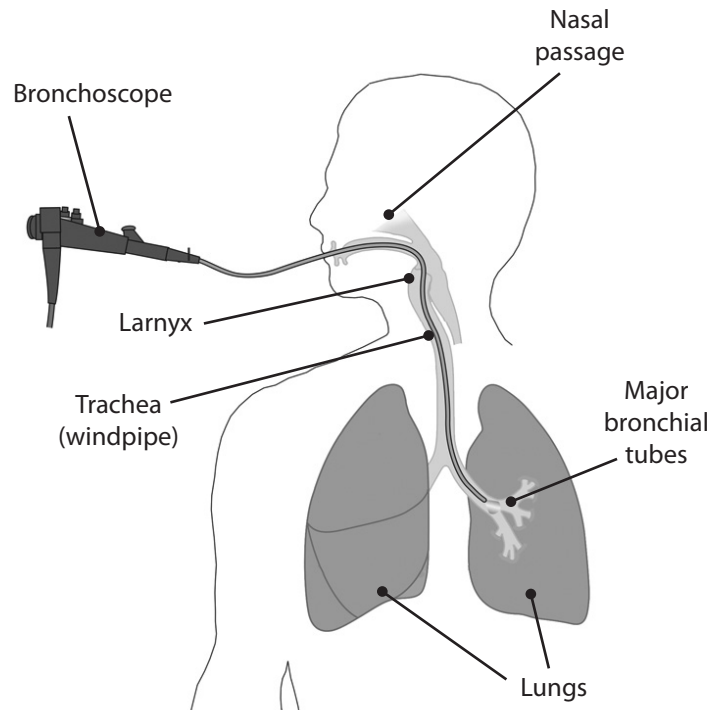
Bring all your medicines with you in their original containers.

You will be admitted to the Medical Short Stay Unit (MSSU) at least one hour prior to your test.

## What is a bronchoscopy?

A “bron-kos-ko-pee” is a test which lets the doctor see into the air passages: the larynx (voice box), trachea (windpipe) and major bronchial tubes.

During a bronchoscopy, a thin flexible tube is passed gently through your mouth (or sometimes nose). There is a tiny camera and light at the end of the tube. This lets the doctor see inside your air passage and take tiny bits of tissue or fluid for the laboratory for testing.



## What happens during this exam?

- The nurse will take a short health history, check your blood pressure, and temperature. We start an intravenous (intra meaning ‘into’ and venous meaning ‘vein’, commonly called an IV). We use a needle to put a tiny flexible tube into a vein in one of your arms and connect it to an IV set up.
- The Respiratory Therapist will spray your throat with a numbing medicine to dull the feeling. You will also have to gargle with this medicine.
- The doctor or nurse will also give you medicine through the IV to help you relax.
- When you are relaxed and comfortable the doctor will start the procedure. A “bite-block” will be placed in your mouth, between your teeth. Your eyes will be covered with a towel to protect them from splashes.
- You will not have pain. During the test the doctor may give you more medicine to keep your throat numb. Sometimes this drips down your throat and you may cough a bit before it takes effect.

## After the bronchoscopy

- After the procedure you will stay for two hours before you go home. The nurse will be checking your blood pressure and will make sure you are breathing easily.
- Because your throat will be numb, you must wait before drinking or eating. The nurse will tell you when you can eat and drink.
- It is normal to cough up small amounts of blood-tinged sputum for 2-3 days.
- If you experience any sudden, severe shortness of breath, or cough up more than a tablespoon of blood, go to your nearest Emergency Department and seek immediate medical attention.
- A mild fever is common in the first 12 hours after a bronchoscopy. If the fever lasts longer than 24 hours, contact the doctor who did the bronchoscopy.
- It is normal to feel some discomfort in the back of your throat; this should disappear in a few days.

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