



Bronchoscopy

What is a bronchoscopy?

Bronchoscopy is a procedure that enables your physician to examine the upper and lower airways and the lungs with a flexible endoscope.

Why is a bronchoscopy done?

Bronchoscopy is usually done to help with the diagnosis of a particular lung problem. The flexible scope is inserted into the mouth or nostrils. Abnormalities, as shown on a chest x-ray, can be confirmed as well as any other abnormalities too small to be seen on an x-ray may also be detected.

What preparation is done for a bronchoscopy?

For the safest examination, it is important that your stomach is completely empty for the bronchoscopy procedure. Ensure that you follow the bronchoscopy preparation instructions given to you by your doctor. Please make sure that you bring a current list of your medications with you to your endoscopy appointment.

What can be expected during the bronchoscopy procedure?

You will be given a medication to gargle to freeze your throat. Your doctor will give you sedation through an intravenous needle. They will then insert the tip of the bronchoscope through your nose or mouth and will gently guide it into the windpipe.

The airways will be carefully examined and your doctor might remove a small piece of tissue to send to the laboratory for closer examination. Occasionally, an X-ray is used to obtain tissue samples. These results are usually available in 10-14 days and will be sent to your family physician.