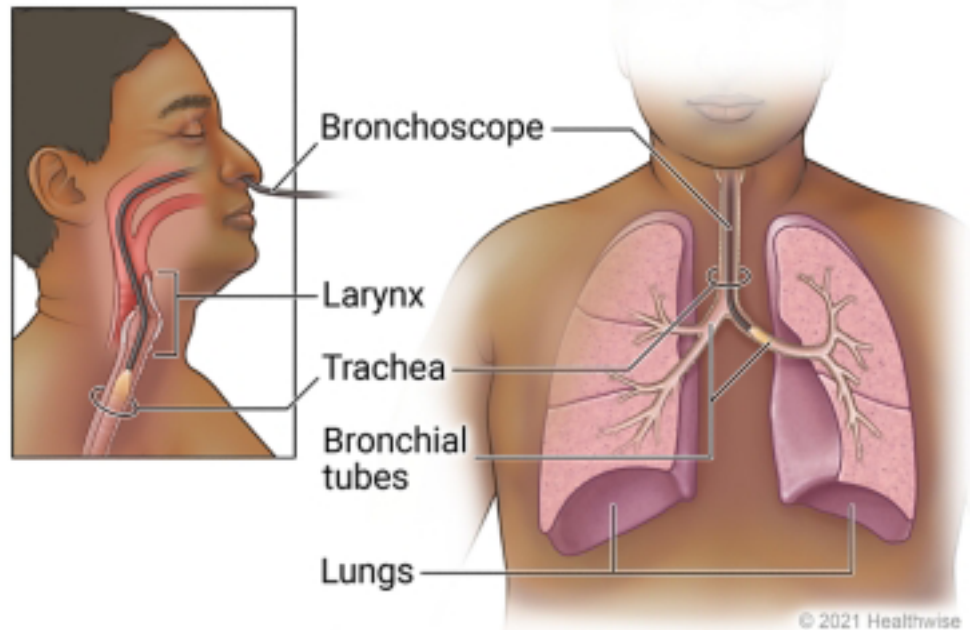


Bronchoscopy

at Ohio State



A bronchoscopy is a procedure used to look at the air passages (airways) in your lungs. This may be done in a procedure room or an operating room. A long tube called a **bronchoscope** is put into your nose or mouth, and passed down through your trachea (windpipe) into your lungs. The bronchoscope is very thin and bends easily. The tip of the scope has a light and camera that lets the doctor see your lungs and airways. A small sample of tissue or mucus may be taken during this procedure. The walls of your windpipe and air sacs in your lungs may also be brushed and rinsed. This helps loosen cells that can be removed and checked in the lab.



Important medicine information

Talk to your doctor about any medicines you take to thin your blood or prevent clots. You may need to change these medicines or adjust the amount you take before surgery. These medicines include:

- apixaban, brand name Eliquis
- aspirin
- cilostazol, brand name Pletal
- clopidogrel, brand name Plavix
- dabigatran, brand name Pradaxa
- dalteparin, brand name Fragmin
- edoxaban, brand name Savaysa
- enoxaparin, brand name Lovenox
- fondaparinux, brand name Arixtra
- prasugrel, brand name Effient
- rivaroxaban, brand name Xarelto
- ticagrelor, brand name Brilinta
- ticlopidine, brand name Ticlid
- warfarin, brand name Coumadin or Jantoven



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If you have a stent, do not stop taking your medicines to prevent clots without first talking to the doctor who put in the stent. For more information, ask a member of your health care team for the patient education handout "[Protect Your Stent.](#)"

If you take aspirin or medicines like aspirin for arthritis pain, your doctor may have you take a different medicine in the weeks before your surgery or procedure.

If your surgery or procedure is canceled for any reason, call your doctor because you may need to restart the medicines you take to thin your blood or prevent clots.

How do I prepare for a bronchoscopy?

- Ask your doctor if you should take your regular medicines the morning of the procedure. If so, take your medicines with small sips of water.
- If your procedure is scheduled for the morning, **do not eat or drink anything after midnight the night before the procedure.**
- If the procedure is scheduled for the afternoon, you may have clear liquids for breakfast, such as water, apple juice, white grape juice, black tea or coffee (do not add milk products to your drinks).

What happens during a bronchoscopy?

- You may be seated or will lie down on a table during the procedure.
- An intravenous line (IV) is put into a vein in your arm.
- You will be given medicines in your IV to help you relax and make you comfortable.
- Heart monitor pads are put on your chest to check your heart rate and rhythm. To help the heart monitor pads stay in place, men may need to have chest hair shaved.
- A blood pressure cuff is put on your arm. Your blood pressure and heart rate are checked often during the procedure.
- An oxygen monitor is put on your finger to check the oxygen level in your blood. You may be given oxygen during the procedure.
- You will be given medicine to numb your nose, mouth, and throat.
- After the numbing medicine begins to work, the doctor will place a bronchoscope into your nose or mouth.
- Your IV medicines will make you sleepy, but you will still be able to breathe on your own.
- The doctor will look at your airways and lungs. Tissue samples, cells, and mucus may be removed for more testing.
- The bronchoscope is then removed.

What happens after a bronchoscopy?

- The nurse will check your breathing, blood pressure and pulse often for about 1 hour after the procedure.
- Medicines given during the procedure will make you sleepy. **For your safety, you will need to have an adult family member or friend drive you home.**
- You should wait 12 to 24 hours before driving, making major decisions or operating heavy equipment.
- Do not eat or drink until the numbness in your throat goes away. It takes about 2 hours for the numbing medicine to wear off.
- You may have a sore nose or throat, a hoarse voice or a cough. It is normal to cough up a few teaspoons of blood-tinged mucus for 1 to 2 days after a bronchoscopy.
- If samples of tissue, cells or mucus were sent for testing, the results will be available a few days after the procedure. Talk with your doctor about when you will get your results.
- Ask your doctor what you can do to help with any pain or soreness.
- Talk to your doctor about when you can start taking your routine medicines after the procedure.
- Do not take medicine that can make you sleepy for 8 hours after the procedure.
- **For the first day or until your throat pain is gone:**
 - Eat a soft or liquid diet.
 - Do not eat hot foods or drink hot liquids.
 - Drink plenty of caffeine free fluids. However, if you have been told to limit fluids, check with your doctor about how much you can drink.

When should I call the doctor?

Call your doctor if you have:

- Chills or fever of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit (38 degrees Celsius) or higher
- A sore nose, throat, or hoarse voice that lasts more than 2 days

Call 911 right away if you have any of the following:

- Trouble breathing
- Chest pain
- Problems swallowing
- Cough up more than a few tablespoons of blood
- Heavy bleeding from your nose or mouth

This handout is for informational purposes only. Talk with your doctor or health care team if you have any questions about your care.

For more health information, go to wexnermedical.osu.edu/patiented or contact the Library for Health Information at 614-293-3707 or health-info@osu.edu.