

Respiratory Care

Rigid Bronchoscopy

Introduction

Following your consultation you may have been advised that a further investigation is required to help your doctor find the cause of your symptoms.

A rigid bronchoscopy is performed by a thoracic (chest) surgeon and may require an overnight stay in hospital. This investigation will require a general anaesthetic and therefore you will be asleep during the investigation.

What is a Rigid Bronchoscopy?

A rigid tube (bronchoscope) is used to look inside the airways of both your lungs. It is passed through your mouth, into your trachea (windpipe) and down the right and left bronchus (the main airways into your lungs.) A small sample of tissue (biopsy) may be taken for examination.

Admission to hospital

You will usually be admitted to hospital the day before the investigation. Information will be sent or given to you explaining what time to arrive and what to bring with you. It is advisable to leave valuables at home. Please inform your Lung Nurse if you are taking **Aspirin, Clopidogrel, Warfarin, Phenindione or any diabetic medication.**

Complications

There are risks involved with any investigation and general anaesthetic. Your surgeon will explain and advise of any potential risks or complications before asking you to sign the consent form for the procedure.



Patient Information

On the day of the procedure

Preoperative Fasting Instructions:

For MORNING Operations	STOP TAKING AT:
Food or milk	2:30 am
Black tea/coffee/ squash (not juice)/ Pre-Op carbohydrate drink	6:30 am
Water	Arrival to hospital
Please do not chew gum on the day of surgery	

For AFTERNOON Operations	STOP TAKING AT:
Food or milk	7:30 am
Black tea/coffee/ squash (not juice)/ Pre-Op carbohydrate drink	11:00 am
Water	Arrival to hospital
Please do not chew gum on the day of surgery	

You will be asked to take a bath or shower, dress in a theatre gown, and remove any undergarments or jewellery, except wedding rings or religious bangles which will be taped to your skin.

Your bed will be prepared clean and ready for theatre.

If you wear a hearing aid, this can be left in until the last minute as you will be asked questions by theatre staff and it will also help in waking you afterwards. Dentures and glasses will need to be removed before you leave the ward for theatre.

The nurse will ask you a list of questions to ensure your details and planned investigation are correct, i.e. name, address, date of birth. These questions will be repeated when the nurse checks you into the theatre.

At the appropriate time a member of theatre staff will collect you from the ward on your bed. A ward nurse will go with you and remain with you while you are 'checked in' by the theatre nurse. You will then be transferred to a theatre trolley and taken into the anaesthetic room.

Here you will be attached to a monitor to record your heart rhythm and rate, oxygen levels and blood pressure. A small needle will be placed into the back of your hand to administer drugs. While you are asleep 'drips' may be set up to flow into this needle.

After the procedure

When you return from theatre:

- You will be nursed in the 'step down' area on the ward;
- Your blood pressure, pulse and oxygen levels will be regularly monitored;
- A 'drip' may be attached to your arm for a short while;
- As soon as you are awake you will be allowed to have a drink;
- You may notice some soreness in your throat and you may possibly cough up some blood. Both of these are normal, but if you are worried then please contact the Lung Nurses on 024 7696 5505.

Patient Information

Pain relief

You may experience some discomfort or pain following the procedure. In order for the staff to assess and treat your pain they will need to ask you to score the level of pain you have:

- 0 = No pain
- 1 = Mild pain
- 2 = Moderate pain
- 3 = Severe pain

Eating and drinking

As soon as you are fully awake you will be allowed to eat and drink as normal.

Mobilising

As soon as you have recovered from the anaesthetic you will be encouraged to sit out of bed and begin mobilising.

Results

The results of your investigation take approximately 7 to 10 days and during this time they will be discussed at the Lung Team Thursday morning meeting.

You will then receive an appointment to see your Consultant so that the results can be discussed with you.

Further information

If you need any further information or clarification please contact the Lung Support Nurse Team on 024 7696 5505.

We would like to express our thanks to the Consultants, Surgeons, patients and their relatives for helping to compile this information booklet

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format please contact 024 7696 5505 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy.

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