

After Your Bronchoscopy

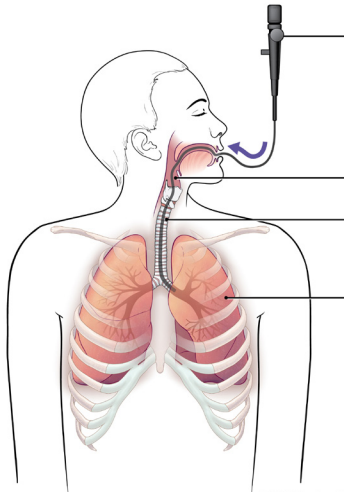
Information for patients and families

Read this booklet to learn:

- what we found
- follow-up care
- how to care for yourself when you get home
- what to expect
- what problems to look out for



Bronchoscopy



What we found:

Follow-up care:

- family doctor
- _____ Clinic

Results and follow-up plan discussed:

- with patient
- with family

Doctor's signature

About your bronchoscopy

During your bronchoscopy we put a scope (a tube with a camera at the end) into your throat and lungs to check for any problems. You received medicine to numb your throat and relax you so you would be comfortable.



When can I eat and drink?

Wait 2 hours after your bronchoscopy before you eat or drink.

For the first 24 hours after your procedure:

- Do not drink alcohol.
- Do not drive or use heavy machines.
- Do not make important decisions or sign any legal papers.
- Do not take any sedatives, tranquilizers, sleeping pills, or medicines that make you drowsy.

How do I expect to feel?

The medicine you received during the procedure may stay in your body up to 24 hours. You may feel tired or sleepy and have difficulty concentrating. Once you get home, relax for the rest of the day.

You may have a sore throat, feel hoarse, and have a tickle in your throat or a dry cough for a day or two. This is normal and usually gets better quickly. Using cough drops or gargling with warm salty water can help.

You may have a fever for 4 to 5 hours after your bronchoscopy. This is normal.

You may cough up a small amount of blood. This is normal.



When can I return to normal activities?

Follow your doctor's instructions about when you can return to work, school or your normal activities.



When can I start taking my regular medicines?

You can start taking your regular medicines when you get home, unless your doctor gave you different instructions. Talk to your doctor before restarting blood thinning medicines such as Coumadin, Plavix or Aspirin.

What problems should I watch for?



Call your doctor or go to your nearest emergency department if you have any of these symptoms:

- shortness of breath
- pain in your chest, stomach area or throat
- coughing up large amounts of blood (about 1 to 2 tablespoons)
- a fever and chills that last longer than 24 hours

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