



# Bronchoscopy

## Why do I need a Bronchoscopy?

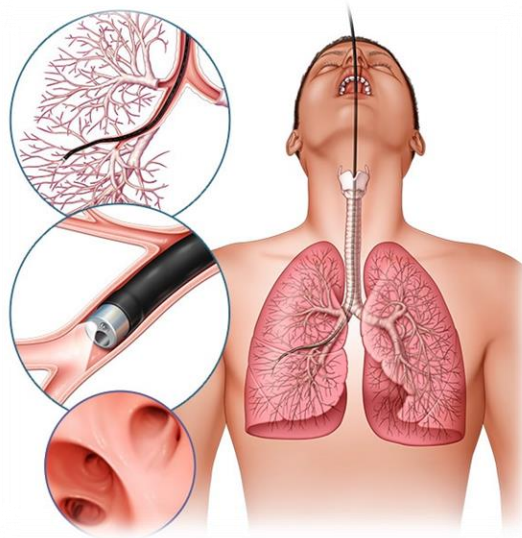
Doctors use a bronchoscopy to find the cause of a lung problem. You might get it if you have:

- ❖ A persistent cough
- ❖ Infection
- ❖ Coughing up blood
- ❖ Shortness of breath
- ❖ Something unusual on a chest X-ray or other test.

A Bronchoscopy can also:

- ❖ Diagnose a lung problem
- ❖ Spot a lung infection
- ❖ Biopsy lung tissue
- ❖ Remove a blockage
- ❖ Treat a lung problem

## What is a bronchoscopy?



It is a procedure to look directly at the airways in the lungs using a thin, lighted tube called a bronchoscope. The bronchoscope is put in the nose or mouth. It is moved down the throat and windpipe (trachea), and into the lungs.

## Are there risks or side effects of a bronchoscopy?

A bronchoscopy is usually safe, but there are a few risks. If your oxygen levels drop during the procedure, the doctor may give you oxygen.

Afterward, you could get a fever or pneumonia. Or you might notice some bleeding. It's rare, but a bronchoscopy can cause a collapsed lung. This is treatable, but you'll have to stay in the hospital. Your doctor may order a chest X-ray after a bronchoscopy to check for any problems.



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**Call your doctor after the procedure if you ...**

- ❖ Have trouble breathing
- ❖ Have chest pain
- ❖ Have a fever for more than a day
- ❖ Cough up blood



## What to Expect

### Procedure:

A bronchoscopy is done in a clinic or hospital setting. A nurse will connect you to sensors to track your blood pressure, heart rate and oxygen levels. They will spray your mouth with numbing medicine.

They will put in an IV in to give you medicine. You will be asleep during the procedure and the medicine used is not general anesthesia, it is a medicine that allows you to wake up quickly after the procedure. This is called conscious sedation.

Once you're comfortable, the doctor will insert the bronchoscope into your mouth or nose, down through your vocal cords, and into your lungs. You may cough.

The camera sends pictures to a screen to help the doctor navigate during the procedure. If necessary, the doctor will use the bronchoscope to gather tissue or fluid samples.

The procedure usually takes 30-45 minutes.

### After the Procedure:

Bronchoscopy is an outpatient procedure, and you will generally be allowed to go home after a brief observation period. Your mouth and throat may be numb, but that'll wear off in a few hours. You won't be able to eat or drink until the numbness is gone and you can swallow normally. Start with sips of water and soft foods, like soup. In the next few days, you may have a sore throat or hoarseness.