



Having a bronchoscopy

Your doctor has advised you to have a bronchoscopy. This information sheet briefly explains what will happen to you and the risks and benefits of the procedure. The procedure will be explained to you beforehand and any questions you might have will be answered.

Please read this information sheet carefully. Remember, if you wish, you can decide not to have the procedure.

If you are unable to attend the appointment for your bronchoscopy, please telephone **0161 446 3520** and ask to speak to the administration clerk **as soon as possible**.

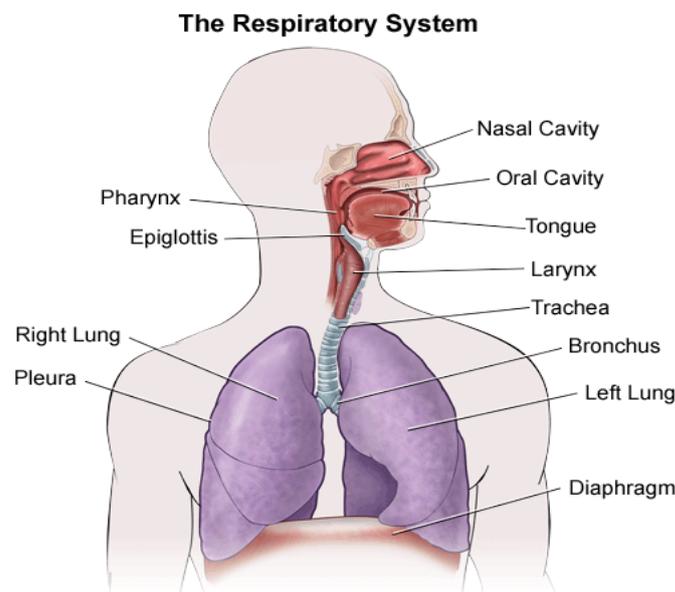
On arrival at the hospital please go to the BMRU (Brachytherapy and molecular radiotherapy unit), department 16.

Upon arrival your details will be checked. A nurse will then ask you some questions about your general health, your current medications and any allergies you may have. Please bring a list of your usual medications with you.

What is a bronchoscopy?

A bronchoscopy is an examination of your large airways. Your procedure will be performed by a bronchoscopist, not necessarily the doctor who you saw in clinic.

A bronchoscopist can look at the nasal passages, back of the throat, larynx (voice box), trachea (windpipe) and the bronchi (branches of the airways). The bronchoscope is a long flexible tube, about as thick as a pencil, with a bright light at the end. The bronchoscopist can take samples, such as biopsies, (small pieces of tissue) to help gain more information about any abnormality seen. This is not painful.



Preparing for your bronchoscopy

- You should not have anything to eat or drink for four hours before the procedure
- **Any medication to thin your blood, such as Warfarin or Clopidogrel may need to be stopped or altered a few days before your procedure. It is important that you let the bronchoscopy unit know if you are taking these medications before the procedure.**
- If you are taking any other regular medicines or tablets please take them as normal with a small amount of water.

If you have diabetes, please have a light breakfast or snack four hours before your procedure along with your usual diabetic tablets.

If you are on insulin please telephone the administrator **(0161 446 3520)** the day before your appointment, and they will advise you accordingly.

- Do not wear nail varnish or false nails as a probe will be placed on your finger to monitor your oxygen levels. Nail varnish and false nails may prevent the probe from working correctly.
- Wear loose fitting, easily washable clothing and leave all valuables at home.
- Please be prepared to remain in the bronchoscopy unit for approximately three hours. Sometimes emergencies must take priority, which could lengthen your stay.
- You must arrange for a friend or relative to collect you after the procedure.

During the procedure

- You will be taken into the examination room and asked to lie on a couch.
- Local anaesthetic jelly will be inserted into your nose to make your nose numb.
- A local anaesthetic will be sprayed into your mouth and into the back of your throat. This will numb your throat.
- The bronchoscopist may give you an injection through a needle in your arm to make you feel sleepy and relaxed.
- As the bronchoscope is passed in, some more local anaesthetic will be used to numb the voice box (larynx) and lungs. This will make you cough.
- You may be given some extra oxygen. A soft sponge will be placed inside your nostril.
- A plastic 'peg' will be placed on your finger to monitor your pulse and oxygen levels.
- A cuff will be placed on your arm to monitor your blood pressure.
- The bronchoscopy usually takes twenty minutes.

After the procedure

- You will be taken back to the BMRU while the sedation wears off. When you are sufficiently awake you can go home. This may take up to two hours following the procedure.
- You cannot eat or drink until full sensation has returned. This is usually within one hour. The nurse will give you a drink and biscuit before you leave the department.
- If biopsies have been taken you might notice some streaks of blood in your phlegm. This is quite normal and should stop within 24 hours.
- You may have some soreness in your throat or a hoarse voice; this is quite normal and usually gets better within 24 to 48 hours.
- You will not normally receive the results of the procedure on the day.

- If you have had samples taken, these will go to the laboratory for further examination. The doctor who referred you for the examination will make arrangements to see you back in clinic for the results.

Consultant: _____ **Clinic date:** _____ **Time:** _____

For at least 24 hours after your bronchoscopy you must not:

- drive - your insurance may become invalid if you drive too soon
- go back to work
- operate any machinery
- drink alcohol
- sign any legal documents
- be responsible for small children

Risks of the procedure

Bronchoscopy is a very safe procedure. The chance of having a complication is very small.

Very occasionally major bleeding can occur from the biopsied site which may require an overnight stay in hospital for observation

If you have a transbronchial biopsy (which will be discussed beforehand), there is a small risk of leakage of air from the lung (1 in 100). In a small proportion of these patients, a chest drain (tube) might need to be inserted in your chest to remove the unwanted air. If this happens you will need to stay in hospital for at least one night.

If you have any queries, or require further information, please contact the radiotherapy theatre administrator on 0161 446 3520.

If you need information in a different format, such as easy read, large print, BSL, braille, email, SMS text or other communication support, please tell your ward or clinic nurse.

Contact The Christie Hotline for
urgent support and specialist advice

The Christie Hotline:
0161 446 3658

Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

We try to ensure that all our information given to patients is accurate, balanced and based on the most up-to-date scientific evidence. If you would like to have details about the sources used please contact **patient.information@christie.nhs.uk**

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For more information about The Christie and our services, please visit **www.christie.nhs.uk** or visit the cancer information centres at Withington, Oldham or Salford.

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The Christie Patient Information Service
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