

# What is a bronchoscopy?



Your physician is planning a bronchoscopy for your child. This is a procedure performed to visually evaluate the larger airways (trachea and bronchi) and rule out an accidentally aspirated foreign body.

Through this procedure, your physician will be able to establish a diagnosis or treat a condition. Depending on the circumstances he may perform a biopsy or a bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL) which may include analyses of bronchial secretions.

You will meet the physician on the morning of the procedure. He will explain what your child will experience and what will be done during the bronchoscopy. He will also discuss the possible risks associated with the health conditions of your child.

You should tell the physician if your child has recently shown any signs of infection (e.g. fever, runny nose, cough, ...). A physical exam will be done to determine whether it is safe to proceed with the bronchoscopy.

If your child is on the waiting list for an elective bronchoscopy, the hospital will call you ahead of time to schedule the exam.



## Procedure

The bronchoscopy is performed in the operating room because your child will need anaesthesia. The pulmonologist will introduce the bronchoscope either through the nose or mouth. The instrument is either flexible and spaghetti-like or rigid and about the size of a ball point pen depending on the purpose of the exam. The instrument is then slowly advanced all the way down the air pipe to visualise the airways and to permit sampling of tissues, fluids or secretions when indicated or to remove a foreign body if present.

## Before and after



### Before the intervention:

- ◆ A nurse from the one day surgery unit (3rd floor block 3) or the admission personnel (if admission to the hospital is necessary) will contact you by telephone the day before the procedure.
- ◆ The child must be kept from eating or drinking (including gum and candy) and even from brushing his teeth after midnight on the day of the procedure. Sometimes, apple juice or water is allowed depending on the scheduled Operating Room time. You will be informed about what is allowed when you are called.

- ◆ An intravenous line will be started either in the OR or in the one-day surgery unit. A blood sample may also be drawn if this has not been done recently.
- ◆ On the day of the procedure, you will be asked to sign an informed consent form.
- ◆ Vial signs (temperature, blood pressure, oxygen saturation, respiratory and cardiac rates) will be recorded.

### After the intervention:

- ◆ After the procedure, your child will be observed in the recovery room and will then be transferred to the ward.
- ◆ The vital signs and the oxygen saturation will regularly be assessed. Some patients will temporarily need supplemental oxygen. Some will also have a hoarse voice for a few hours.
- ◆ After four (4) hours, if your child is sufficiently awake, the nurse will allow him to start taking fluids.
- ◆ The IV line will be removed when your child is ready to go home.
- ◆ Overall, your child is likely to spend the entire day in the hospital (or more if he has been admitted a hospital ward). The pulmonologist will assess him before discharge and will schedule a follow-up appointment.
- ◆ Depending on the circumstances, some patients will need to be admitted to the hospital ward for further investigation or observation.



### At home

- ◆ In the evening, your child should have a light meal (Jell-O, popsicle, apple sauce and fluids) and should gradually go back to his usual diet.
- ◆ If in any discomfort or pain, you can use Tempra® or Tylenol® as prescribed or according to the manufacturer's recommendations
- ◆ Your child should be able to go back to his usual activities within the 24 to 48 hours following the procedure.
- ◆ During the first 24 to 48 hours after the procedure, your child may cough up small amount of bloody phlegm and/or present a mild fever.
- ◆ **If your child develops shortness of breath or fever that persists more than 48 hours, please get in touch with us or see a physician:**



emergency room, evening, weekend and holidays at the number:

**514 345-4931 ext. 4580**

ou



pulmonary nurses, weekdays, from 9h00 to 16h00, at the number:

**514 345-4931 ext. 3900 ou 2767**



#### **REALISATION**

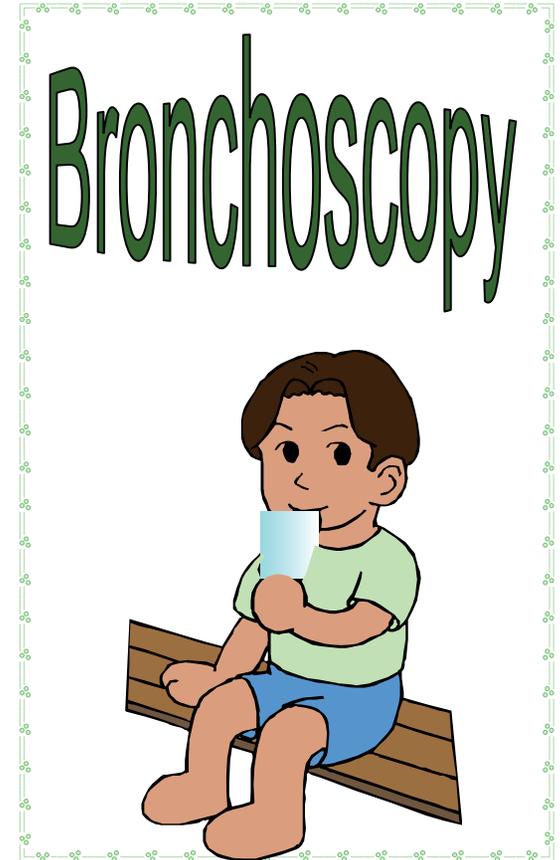
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#### **COLLABORATION**

Nursing staff of the one  
Day surgery unit

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## **Informations for parents**