

Having a Bronchoscopy

Gemini Endoscopy Suite
Tel: 01271 349180

Patients name:

Hospital No:

Your appointment is at on

Other formats

If you need this information in another format such as audio tape or computer disk, Braille, large print, high contrast, British Sign Language or translated into another language, please telephone the PALS desk on 01271 314090.

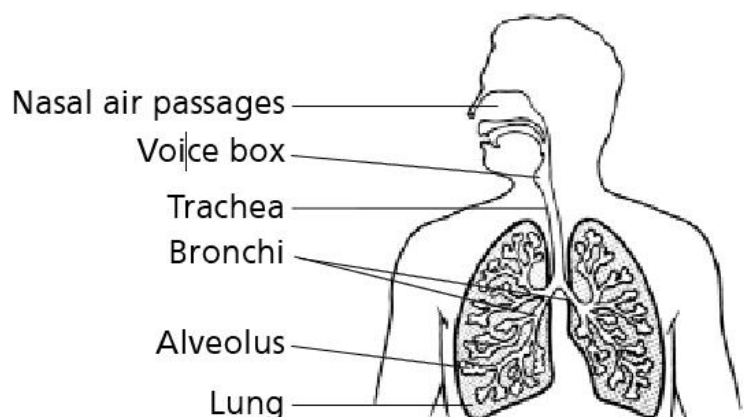
This leaflet will answer many of your questions about your bronchoscopy. However, if you would like to speak to someone, please contact either the Gemini Endoscopy Suite staff or one of the respiratory nurse specialists. The telephone numbers are at the back of this leaflet.

Why is a bronchoscopy needed?

This test allows the doctor to look directly at the trachea (windpipe) and the bronchi (air passages). This means we can check whether any disease is present and will help us find the cause of your chest symptoms.

What does it involve?

A bronchoscopy is carried out under a local anaesthetic and with sedation. A bronchoscope is a long, thin, flexible tube, about the width of a thin pencil, with a bright light at the end. It is passed up through your nose, down your trachea (windpipe) and into the bronchi (air passages). Occasionally it may be necessary to pass the scope through the mouth instead. During the test, photographs may be taken.



Sometimes a small amount of tissue (biopsy) may need to be taken from a particular area for further examination in the laboratory. This involves the painless removal of the tissue using tiny forceps passed through the bronchoscope.

We may also take brushings of your lung tissue. This involves passing a fine brush through the bronchoscope and gentle brushing the lung surface to collect some tissue. We may also take washings. This involves passing a small amount of saline down the bronchoscope and then sucking it back out to collect any secretions present to test.

When you come to the department, a nurse will discuss the test with you. This is to ensure that you understand what the test involves. If you have any questions or worries, don't be afraid to ask.

How to find us

The Gemini Endoscopy Suite is located on Level 0 at the North Devon District Hospital in Barnstaple.

If you come in through the main hospital entrance, use the lifts or stairs to go down to Level 0. On leaving the lift turn right and head for the link corridor. The corridor forms a 'crossroad', take the right turn and follow the corridor up to a double set of doors. Through the doors and the Gemini Endoscopy Suite is on your left.

If you come in from the Endoscopy Drop-off Zone, go through the blue door and the entrance to the Gemini Endoscopy suite is directly opposite.

There is a map at the back of this leaflet.

Special precautions

If you are taking any of the following medications, please contact the Gemini Endoscopy Suite when you receive your appointment.

- **Warfarin**
- **Rivaroxaban**
- **Dabigatran**
- **Edoxaban**
- **Apixaban**
- **Clopidogrel**
- **Prasugrel**
- **Ticagrelor**

If you have any allergies or have had a bad reaction to drugs or other tests, please tell the nurse on admission and/or doctor.

If you are diabetic on medication (insulin or tablets) and need advice, then please contact the Diabetic Liaison Nurse on 01271 322726 or the Gemini Endoscopy Suite.

Should there be any infectious diseases in your house, please inform the unit before your visit.

On the day of your test

You can continue taking your usual medication

- Have **nothing to eat** and **no milky drinks** for **six hours before** your appointment time.
- You can have clear fluids such as water or squash up until two hours before your procedure. You must be **Nil by Mouth** for **two hours before your procedure**..

What to bring

Please bring:

- Phone numbers for your Next of kin and the person collecting you. (if different)
- A list of or any tablets or medicines that you are taking, including supplements and herbal remedies
Consent form (if applicable)
- Your reading glasses

Please wear minimal jewelery, make-up or nail varnish for this appointment

Do not bring any valuables with you to the department, as we cannot take responsibility for any losses.

What will happen during the test?

You will be made comfortable on a trolley in a sitting position. A local anaesthetic will be given in the form of a spray and gel to numb your nose, throat and voice box. We will also give you a sedative injection into a vein in your arm to make you feel sleepy and relaxed.

The doctor will then pass the bronchoscope gently into your nose or mouth and down into the air passages. More anaesthetic will be sprayed through the bronchoscope. This causes no pain but may be slightly uncomfortable and cause occasional coughing. The tube will not interfere with your breathing. It usually takes about 10-15 minutes to carefully examine all the air passages. When the examination is finished, the bronchoscope is removed quickly and easily causing little discomfort.

What should I expect after the test?

If you are still sleepy from the sedation, we will leave you to rest in the recovery area, where a nurse is always present. Because your throat will be numb, it will be not safe to eat or drink for at least one hour.

After the test you may have a slight nosebleed. If you have had a biopsy (sample of tissue) taken, you may cough up a little blood. This will usually pass off within the next 24 hours and is nothing to worry about. Any soreness in the throat or hoarseness in the voice will also ease within a day or two.

What are the possible complications?

This is a safe procedure. Bleeding or respiratory depression can occur, but this is very rare. You will be closely monitored throughout and if there is any cause for concern, the procedure will be stopped immediately.

When will I be able to go home?

Provided you are fully recovered, you will be able to go home within two hours of having the examination. However, it is important that someone comes to pick you up and that you should be accompanied home by a responsible adult who would stay with you for at least 12 hours if you live alone. If this is not possible, please contact the Gemini Endoscopy Suite. The telephone number is at the back of this leaflet.

Once home, it is important to rest quietly for the rest of the day. You **must not** drive a car, sign legal documents, drink alcohol or operate machinery for **24 hours**. It is also advisable to take the next day off work.

Test results

The results of your test will be discussed with you at your next clinic appointment.

Further information

If you are not able to attend for your appointment please contact the booking team as soon as possible, as we can offer your appointment to another patient.

Doctors and nurses training in Endoscopy at many different levels attend unit or department and will be involved in your care under the direct supervision of experienced consultants and nurses. If you do not wish to be involved in training these experts of the future please contact the Booking Office.

If you have any queries or concerns about your bronchoscopy, please do not hesitate to contact the Gemini Endoscopy Suite.

You can access The Endoscopy Unit webpage on the Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust website at www.northdevonhealth.nhs.uk. Go to 'Our services' then 'Endoscopy'. Click on 'Endoscopy FAQ' for more information.

Useful telephone numbers

Gemini Endoscopy Suite	01271 349180
Respiratory Nurse Specialist	01271 311600
Dr A Moody	01271 322739
Dr G Hand	01271 322443

PALS

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) ensures that the NHS listens to patients, relatives, carers and friends, answers questions and resolves concerns as quickly as possible. If you have a query or concern call 01271 314090 or e-mail ndht.pals@nhs.net. You can also visit the PALS and Information Centre in person at North Devon District Hospital, Barnstaple.

Have your say

Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust aims to provide high quality services. However, please tell us when something could be improved. If you have a comment or compliment about a service or treatment, please raise your comments with a member of the staff or the PALS team in the first instance.

'Care Opinion' comments forms are on all wards or online at www.careopinion.org.uk.

Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust
Raleigh Park, Barnstaple
Devon EX31 4JB
Tel. 01271 322577
www.northdevonhealth.nhs.uk

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