

Bronchoscopy

Introduction

A bronchoscopy is an examination of the airways. The purpose of the examination is to examine the internal airways and to assess the presence of any possible abnormalities. The examination is done with a pliable and navigable viewing instrument (endoscope). This is a tube of 6 mm in width.

Preparation

Four hours before the agreed time, you may have a light meal: a cup of tea and a Dutch rusk spread with a filling of your choice. After this, you may not eat or drink anything else. You may also not take any medication, unless your specialist has decided otherwise.

On the day of the examination, you will report at the agreed time to the desk of the Endoscopy department (C 35). We ask you to bring your patient registration card with you.

Examination

In preparation for the bronchoscopy, the throat is anesthetized with a spray. After a couple of sprays, you will get a swollen feeling in your throat; it feels as if swallowing is more difficult.

After the spraying, an anesthetic fluid is dripped into the airway (and, possibly, in the nose). If necessary, the pulmonologist may administer extra anesthetic during the endoscopy.

During the examination, an electronic measuring apparatus (a clip) will be

placed on your finger to monitor your pulse and the oxygen level of the blood.

The endoscope is inserted via the nose or mouth while you lie on your back. Via the endoscope, mucus can be drain away and, because of this, the specialist can examine the lungs better.

The bronchoscopy is not painful and does not hinder the breathing.

Biopsy

It is sometimes also necessary to take a small piece of tissue (= biopsy) for microscopic examination. This is not dangerous. A biopsy is generally not painful. After the biopsy, it is possible that you will cough up some blood for a couple of days.

Important

If you take blood thinning medication or are allergic to certain drugs, report this to the nurse at the Endoscopy department before the biopsy.

Duration of the bronchoscopy

The preparation for the examination takes about 15 minutes. The examination itself takes about 10 - 30 minutes.

After the examination

If the bronchoscopy has been done on an out-patient basis, it is better that you do not drive yourself home. We advise you to have someone take you home.

After the bronchoscopy, you may not eat or drink anything for two hours. You

could choke because your throat is still anesthetized. After two hours, you may take a sip of water. If there are no problems with this, you may then eat and drink again.

Results

After the examination is over, the specialist will discuss what he has seen with you. Also, further appointments are made.

Questions

If you still have questions about the bronchoscopy, the nurse in the Endoscopy department would be pleased to answer them for you.

Notes on this leaflet

If any information in this leaflet is unclear or incomplete, please notify us. You can share your remarks with us via voorlichting@zha.nl.