

## Let's Talk About...

# Fiberoptic bronchoscopy

A fiberoptic bronchoscopy (fie-ber-OP-tic brawn-CAH-scup-ee) is an exam that uses a thin, flexible tube with a camera called a bronchoscope (BRAWN-koe-scope) to look at the lungs.

### Why does my child need a fiberoptic bronchoscopy?

Your child may need a fiberoptic bronchoscopy if they have:

- A lung infection such as pneumonia
- An airway blockage or narrowing
- A persistent cough without a known cause
- Spots in their lungs that were seen in a chest x-ray

### How do I prepare my child for the test?

To prepare my child for their fiberoptic bronchoscopy:

- Tell the care team about your child's allergies or other health concerns.
- Make sure your child does not eat or drink for a certain time before the bronchoscopy. You'll receive specific instructions from your child's doctor's office.

A nurse will call the day before the bronchoscopy to tell you when to bring your child to the hospital.

### What happens during a fiberoptic bronchoscopy?

Your child will receive medicine to help them sleep during the fiberoptic bronchoscopy. The healthcare provider will:

- Lubricate the bronchoscope
- Put the bronchoscope through your child's nose or breathing tube. A breathing tube is placed if they receive general anesthesia. If the healthcare provider puts the bronchoscope through your child's nose, they will numb it so your child doesn't feel pain.



- Pass the bronchoscope down the windpipe and into the lungs
- Look at the lungs with the bronchoscope and take video or photos

The healthcare provider sometimes squirts saline (sterile salt water) into your child's lungs and takes a sample of the lung cells. This is called a lavage. Your child will not feel this. A fiberoptic bronchoscopy usually takes 20–40 minutes.

### What happens after a fiberoptic bronchoscopy?

After the exam, you can sit with your child while the healthcare provider discusses the results with you. If they did a lavage, you will receive the test results in 3–4 days.

Healthcare providers will watch your child for a few hours after the test, and then you can take them home. The nurse will tell you what your child can eat and which activities they should avoid for a while after the test.

## What are the risks of a fiberoptic bronchoscopy?

The risks of a fiberoptic bronchoscopy are small and may include:

- Sore throat, hoarseness, or coughing for a short time

- A small amount of bleeding from the sample site
- Low-grade fever
- Wheezing
- Needing extra oxygen for a little while

The bronchoscopy is usually not painful.

## Notes

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

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