THORACIC PHYSICIAN
FLEXIBLE BRONCHOSCOPY/EBUS
PATIENT INFORMATION AND CONSENT FORM

What is bronchoscopy?

Bronchoscopy is a diagnostic examination of the major air passages to the lung. The examination permits your doctor to visualize the vocal cords, trachea or windpipe and bronchial tubes.

The instrument used is a flexible tube about 5 mm diameter (one quarter of an inch) containing a camera system that allows us to see around corners.

The instrument is usually introduced into a nostril (occasionally the mouth) and advanced slowly down through the back of the mouth into the windpipe.

This is a procedure that is painless. Usually you would be asleep whilst this procedure was done. The anaesthetic used is a combination of sedation and of topical local anaesthetic.

What will it show?

There are many reasons for having a bronchoscopy. Common ones are (1) coughing up of blood, (2) a persistent cough that has not responded to the usual medications and (3) abnormal chest x-ray findings. Often times diseases far out in the lung will produce secretions which can by appropriate laboratory examination lead to correct diagnosis. Sometimes a biopsy of the lung itself will be performed using a biopsy forceps that can be passed through the inside channel of the bronchoscope. At other times, tumor growths originating in the lining of the bronchial tubes can be visualized and biopsied.

What are the risks?

As with all procedures there are risks with the medications given for sedation, though very small. There is a 3% chance of a fever or coughing up a small amount of blood afterward. There is a 1% risk of causing a hole in the pleura (bag surrounding the lung), with about half of these requiring a chest drain to re-inflate the lungs.

What about after effects?

Bronchoscopy is a safe procedure and carries little risk. It is done as a day case in hospital. You may experience some hoarseness of the voice or a sore throat for a few hours after the procedure. You will be asked not to eat or drink for two hours after the test as your mouth will be numb from the anaesthetic. This will prevent any risk of food going down the wrong way.

You may be groggy after the test and accordingly you will need a friend or relative, or a taxi, to drive you home.

Occasionally patients experience some nasal stuffiness or discharge for a few days after the test. If a biopsy is taken within the lung there may be some bleeding from the biopsy site - usually only enough to discolor the sputum. It is possible for bronchoscopy to aggravate wheeziness. Special precautions are taken to prevent this problem developing, by giving Ventolin and Atrovent before the test.

When will the results be available?

It takes several days for the pathology results to be processed. You will therefore be given a follow up appointment to discuss the results a few days later.

Who will do the test, where can it be done and how much will it cost?

If you do not have private health cover, the test can be performed at Frankston Hospital. The test will be done by a trainee specialist, at no cost.

If you wish to be treated as a private patient Dr Gary Braun, Dr Juan Mulder or Dr Sameer Kaul will perform the test himself. The test may be done at Beleura Private Hospital or at Peninsula Private Hospital. Your health insurance will cover you completely if you have top cover or no gap insurance. If however you have an excess type policy then obviously you can expect to pay the excess.

Preparation for your bronchoscopy:

DAY: _____

DATE: _____

Nothing to eat or drink after: _____

Come to: _____

At: _____

You will be able to go home at approximately _____, but you will need someone to drive you home.

PLEASE BRING YOUR XRAYS and CT SCANS IN WITH YOU FOR THIS TEST AS WE WILL WANT TO LOOK AT THEM AGAIN TO PLAN THE PROCEDURE.
_____

CONSENT FOR FIBREOPTIC BRONCHOSCOPY

You will need to sign the consent form below and bring it with you.

I read and understood the information provided to me by Dr _____ about my bronchoscopy. I had an opportunity to raise any further concerns and I had my questions answered.

Signed: _____
      Dr Sameer Kaul/ Dr Juan Mulder
Date: _____

I would like to proceed with this test.

Signed: _____

Name: _____

Date: _____