

## Child health information factsheet

# Flexible bronchoscopy

A bronchoscopy has been arranged for your child. Please read this information leaflet and follow the instructions below.

Please come to .....

Time ..... day .....

Your child must have nothing to eat or drink after:

Time ..... day .....

A bronchoscopy is a procedure that allows the doctor to look directly down the windpipe and into some parts of the lungs. This can be done using a general anaesthetic (medicine given to make your child go to sleep), or sedation (medicine given to make your child relaxed and sleepy).

The bronchoscope is a long thin bendy tube with a bright light at the end of it. It is passed through the nose and down the throat into the branches of the lungs.

During the test the doctor may want to take a fluid specimen by washing the lung with a small amount of salty water, this is known as a lavage.

The doctor may also need to take a small amount of tissue for further examination in the laboratory, this is known as a biopsy. A biopsy specimen may be taken painlessly using tiny forceps that are threaded through the bronchoscope. If any other tests need to be done during the bronchoscopy you will be told.

### Before the procedure

Your child must not eat or drink anything for four hours before the procedure to make sure your child's stomach is empty.

After talking with the doctor, you will be asked to sign a consent form to make sure you understand the procedure. Please tell the doctor if you know that your child is allergic to any medicines.

We use some local anaesthetic cream that is put on the back of your child's hand to numb the skin. The doctor will put a cannula (a small plastic tube) into a vein in your child's hand, the anaesthetic or sedation medicine will be given through this tube.

### The procedure

You will be able to go into the bronchoscopy room with your child until he or she is drowsy. The procedure will take about 15 to 20 minutes. During this time one of the nurses from the ward will stay with your child.

When the procedure is finished the nurse will take you back into the bronchoscopy room so that you can be with your child.

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## After the procedure

Your child may be drowsy after the procedure, so we encourage them to rest on their bed or have a sleep. Sometimes your child may need oxygen. The nurse will assess your child to see if this is needed.

Your child will not be able to eat or drink for a couple of hours after the procedure until their swallowing is back to normal. Your child's sense of balance may be affected for a short time so they will need to be watched carefully.

Sometimes after a bronchoscopy your child may have flu-like symptoms with a slight temperature. They may also have a sore throat or nose. This can be treated with paracetamol.

Your child may cough more than usual for a short period; they may also have a slight nose bleed and a small amount of blood in his or her sputum (spit).

If any of the above symptoms continue or you are worried for any reason please phone either your GP or the ward for advice.

## Results

The doctor may be able to tell you the results of the test as soon as it is finished. If a biopsy or lavage are taken it will take longer.

Before you go home you will be given an outpatient appointment. If you are waiting for results they will be given to you at this appointment.

## Risks

There are minimal risks linked with having a flexible bronchoscopy. These will be discussed with you, including the risk of the anaesthetic or sedation.

If you are not sure about any part of the procedure please ask the doctor before you sign the consent form giving your permission for it to be done.

## If you have any questions or concerns please contact

The Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Facility: **023 8079 4989** or  
The paediatric respiratory team: **023 8079 8973**

**If you need a translation of this document, an interpreter or a version in large print, Braille or on audio tape, please telephone 023 8079 4688 for help.**