

Bronchoscopy

Self-care after your procedure

This handout describes how to care for yourself after your bronchoscopy. It also explains possible side effects, when to call the doctor, and when you will receive your results.

Self-care

- **Do not eat or drink anything (including medicines) for at least 3 hours after your procedure.**

Your throat may still be numb, and this could make you inhale something into your lungs.

- Do not drive for 24 hours after your procedure. It is not safe. The medicines you were given during the procedure can affect your judgment and reaction time.
- Follow the guidelines in the handout “Recovering at Home After Anesthesia.”



Do not eat or drink anything for at least 3 hours after your bronchoscopy.

Possible Side Effects

After your bronchoscopy, you may:

- Have a sore throat or a hoarse voice (or both) for 24 hours. This is because your throat was irritated by the bronchoscope.
- Cough up streaks of blood or pink-colored *sputum* (spit). This may be from irritation from the bronchoscope, biopsies (if they were done), or a complication.

When to Call for Help

Call 9-1-1 or go to the emergency room right away if you have:

- Chest pain
- A breathing emergency
- Other life-threatening problems

Call your health care provider or the Surgical Specialties Center right away if you:

- Have shortness of breath
- Are coughing up blood (more than 2 to 3 tablespoons)
- Have new or increased wheezing
- Have a fever of 100.5°F (38.0°C) or higher

Call your health care provider during clinic hours if you:

- Have questions about your procedure or the results

Results

Your surgeon will give the results of your bronchoscopy to your support person after your procedure (if we have your permission to and they are in the waiting room). Your surgeon will also talk with you about your results at your next clinic visit.

Questions?

Your questions are important. Call your doctor or health care provider if you have questions or concerns.

Weekdays 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., call the Surgical Specialties Center: 206-598-4477

After hours and on weekends and holidays, call 206-598-6190 and ask for the Thoracic Surgery Resident on call to be paged.