

Bronchoscopy

Bronchoscopy is a procedure that lets a doctor look inside your airways.

It's done to diagnose or treat a problem with your airways or your lungs.

It's called bronchoscopy because the doctor uses a bronchoscope a long, thin tool with a camera on it.

The camera sends pictures to a computer screen.

Your care provider will give you instructions for how to get ready for the procedure, including what you can eat or drink and which medicines to take.

Be sure to follow those instructions.

Before the procedure, you'll get medicine to make you relaxed and sleepy.

Another medicine may be sprayed into your nose and mouth to numb your throat.

Then the doctor will put the scope into your nose or mouth and guide it gently down your throat.

The doctor will check your windpipe bronchial tubes and lungs to try to find what's causing your problem.

Tiny tools can be sent down the scope to treat a problem or to take tissue or mucous samples. The procedure usually takes less than an hour.

Then you'll spend a couple of hours in the recovery room.

You'll probably be able to go home the same day so be sure you have someone to drive you.

You'll be able to get back to your normal routine in 1 to 2 days but you may feel more tired than usual.

And you may be hoarse or have a sore throat for a few days.

Having a procedure can be stressful.

But knowing what to expect and how to prepare can help.

And remember, you can always call your care provider if you have questions or concerns.