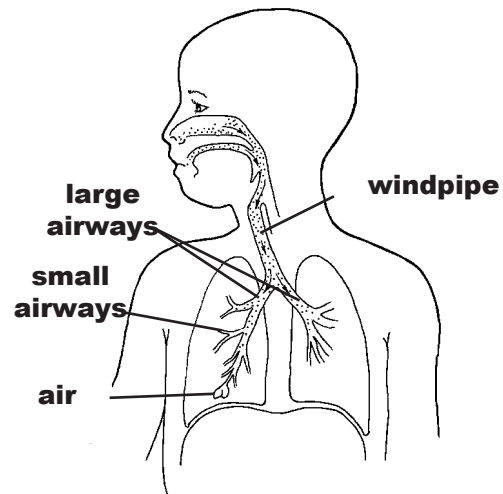


Name of Child: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Flexible Bronchoscopy

## What is it:

A bronchoscopy [bron-KAH-sko-pee] looks at the inside of the voice box (larynx), and the airways inside the lungs (bronchi). This is done with a flexible fiberoptic bronchoscope. This long, thin, bendable tube with a tiny camera and bright light at the end is used to look inside the lungs.



## Getting ready:

- Call the doctor if your child has a cold or a fever. The exam may need to be done another day.
- Let the nurse know if your child is taking any medicines regularly. Medicines may need to be given earlier or later than usual.
- Your child should not eat or drink anything, including water, for four (4) to six (6) hours before the exam.

Date of the exam: \_\_\_\_\_

Do not let the child to eat or drink after \_\_\_\_\_

- Things to tell your child: The exam is not painful. The child may feel a pinch and pressure when the IV is put in his arm or leg. Medicine put in this IV may make your child feel dizzy and relaxed for the exam.

## Before the exam:

- The nurse will remind your child of what will happen in the exam.
- The nurse will check your child's temperature, blood pressure and heart rate.
- An IV (intravenous catheter) will allow your child to get medicine during the exam quickly and without pain. A cream medicine may be used to make the skin numb, so putting in the IV will hurt less. To work best, this cream must be put on at least one hour before the IV is put in.

If you want more information, ask your nurse or doctor for:

yes  no IVs #107

yes  no EMLA Cream: Making Needle Sticks Easier #157

- The doctor and nurse doing the bronchoscopy will meet with you. They will answer any questions you and your child have about the exam.
- You will be asked to sign a consent form.  
 yes  no You and your child will be taken to the exam room.  
 yes  no The exam will be done in your child's hospital room.
- The lights in the room may be low, to make it easier for the doctor to see through the tube.
- The doctor and nurses will be wearing gowns, masks, goggles and gloves.
- You will need to step out of the room during the exam. The exam will take about 15 minutes.

## During the exam:

- Medicine given through the IV will make your child relaxed and sleepy. Your child may be awake during the exam.
- A cotton swab may be used to put medicine in the nose to numb it.
- A medicine will be sprayed into your child's nose, throat and lungs to make them numb. Your child's eyes will be covered briefly to keep this spray out.
- A nurse will be with your child during the exam to offer comfort.
- During the exam your child will be watched very closely. Every few minutes blood pressure will be checked. A machine will beep if the child needs more oxygen. It can tell by a probe that is wrapped on the child's finger or toe. Oxygen will be given if it is needed.
- Your child may be wrapped snugly in a blanket to help him hold still.
- The bronchoscope will be passed through your child's mouth or nose, and into the airways. The tube is thin, and the child will be able to breathe around it. The camera at the end of the tube will be taking video pictures along the way.

- The doctor may put a small amount of fluid into the airway through the tube. This fluid may cause him to cough. This fluid will be suctioned back out and sent for tests.

## After the exam:

- The doctor will show you the video of your child's airways and talk with you about the findings.
- For the next one or two hours, your child will be watched while the medicine wears off.
- When your child is awake enough to swallow well, she can drink some clear liquids, such as water or juice. Bring a baby bottle if your child uses one.
- yes  no Your child will be able to go home one or two hours after the exam.
- For the next 24 hours, your child may be unsteady. Watch your child carefully to keep him from getting hurt.
- Your child may have a slightly bloody nose, sore throat or low grade fever (under 102° F.) after the exam.
- If your child has a sore throat or a low-grade fever you may give acetaminophen (Tylenol) for comfort.

## Now that you've read this:

- Tell the nurse or doctor how you will get your child ready for this test. (Check when done.)



- Call your doctor if the child's fever is 102° F. or higher.  
A high fever may mean there is another problem.
- Call 602-546-0985 if you have any questions before or after the exam.
- Call 911 for medical emergencies, such as heavy bleeding or trouble breathing.
- If you have any questions or concerns,
  - call your child's doctor or  call \_\_\_\_\_

**Disclaimer**

The information provided at this site is intended to be general information, and is provided for educational purposes only. It is not intended to take the place of examination, treatment, or consultation with a physician. Phoenix Children's Hospital urges you to contact your physician with any questions you may have about a medical condition.

**If you want to know more about child health and illness,  
visit our library at The Emily Center at Phoenix Children's Hospital  
1919 East Thomas Road  
Phoenix, AZ 85016  
602-546-1400  
888-908-5437  
[www.phoenixchildrens.com](http://www.phoenixchildrens.com)**

**#35 • Written by Debra A. Carlin, RN • Illustrated by Dennis Swain  
This handout is also available in Spanish as #148/35s**