

### Respiratory - Bronchoscopy

#### What is a bronchoscopy?

A Bronchoscope is a small flexible tube about the width of a small pencil with a bright light at the end. Using it allows the doctor to look directly at the windpipe (trachea) and the bronchi (branches of the lung).

The tube will be inserted through your mouth or nose and passed via the vocal cords to your lung.

The bronchoscope does not stop your ability to breathe or to cough. During the test different procedures may be performed:

**Biopsy** - The doctor may take some biopsies (very small amounts of tissue) under direct vision using small biopsy forceps. This is not painful.

**Bronchial Aspiration/Washings** - To remove secretions from the airway passages sterile saline may be inserted through the bronchoscope into the breathing tube then removed again via the bronchoscope. These are usually taken to send to the laboratory to look for abnormal cells or infection.

**Brushings** - A small brush is used, via the bronchoscope, to remove cells from the lining of the lung for analysis

**Transbronchial biopsy** - In this situation the biopsy is taken from the peripheral part of the lung. In order to do this safely, you are x-rayed at the same time to ensure that the biopsy is taken from the correct place.

#### Preparation for a bronchoscopy

Do not eat for 4 hours prior to your appointment time

Do not drink anything for 2 hours prior to your appointment time

Remove all nail polish (a small peg called an oximeter will be attached to your finger during the procedure to monitor your oxygen levels)

Avoid Alcohol and Smoking on the day of the test.

If you have diabetes for which you are taking tablets or injections, or taking any medication to thin your blood such as Warfain, please telephone the unit and speak to a nurse, as we may need to advise you to alter your medication, in consultation with your GP, at least five days prior to the test.

#### Contact us

Dr Phillips	01432 355444 – EXT 4210
Dr Ryan and Dr Talbot-Smith	01432 355444 – EXT 4096
Dr El-Batrawy	01432 355444 – EXT 4404
Dr du Rand	01432 355444 – EXT 4241

# My Planned Care Patient Information Platform

## General guidance for patients

If you no longer require your appointment please let us know as soon as possible as that will allow us time to offer an earlier appointment to another patient. If you do not have the phone number for the specialty you will be reviewed in but would like to cancel, change your appointment or speak to a staff member please call our switchboard number and they will be able to direct your call to the correct specialty.

**Wye Valley Trust – 01432 355444**

Further links which may help you manage your condition whilst you await treatment;

- <https://www.patientaccess.com/> (Connect to your GP services online)
- <https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health/self-help/>
- <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/>

## What should I do if my health is deteriorating?

### Urgent Health Advice

For urgent health advice about physical or mental health, when it's not an emergency, please call 111 from any landline or mobile phone. You can also visit [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk). The NHS 111 service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

### Life Threatening Emergencies

For something life threatening – severe bleeding, breathing difficulties or chest pains – please dial 999.

If your skin lesion rapidly changes while you are on the waiting list for surgery please contact your consultant's secretary through the switchboard.

Any email enquiries can be sent to our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS); [pals@wvt.nhs.uk](mailto:pals@wvt.nhs.uk)

If you feel that the hospital haven't been able to resolve your concerns after you have spoken to them about your waiting time, you can speak to our dedicated PALS team.

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