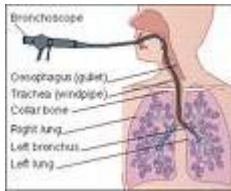


## Bronchoscopy

### Connecticut Pediatric Otolaryngology



### **What is a Bronchoscopy?**

A bronchoscopy is a procedure in which a thin, flexible or rigid (hard) scope is passed through your child's mouth to allow visualization/examination of the airways that lead to your lungs.

### **Indications for Bronchoscopy:**

- Evaluation of the airway due to
  - noisy breathing or hoarseness
  - identify airway deformity, fistula, lesion
- Identify and remove a foreign body in the airway or lung
- Obtain cultures: test for infection
- Obtain biopsy: sample of the airway tissue to help diagnose a problem
- Airway evaluation in patients with a tracheostomy tube

### **Risks/Benefits:**

The **benefit** of the procedure is that it will help your health care provider diagnose and treat your child's problem. It may relieve your child's symptoms if he/she has extra tissue or a foreign body in his/her airway.

The **risks** include the risk of general anesthesia. There is a very small risk of a complication occurring as the result of anesthesia. However, every precaution is taken to ensure the safety of your child. If the rigid scope is used, an injury to a tooth or teeth may occur. This is much less common with the flexible fiber-optic bronchoscopes. Throat swelling may occur which will usually respond well to medications if necessary. There is also a small risk of infection and bleeding.

### **SO MY CHILD NEEDS THIS PROCEDURE/ SURGERY, WHAT IS THE NEXT STEP...**

- Choose the date. You can pick the date you would like during your appointment with us, or just give us a call.
- A preoperative tour is available for you and your child if you are interested. We strongly recommend taking advantage of this tour. During the tour, your child will meet with a Child Life Specialist (if age appropriate) who will help prepare your child for surgery using age appropriate play and descriptions. You will also meet with a pediatric anesthesiologist and pediatric nurse. To schedule an appointment, please call 688-7996. The tour takes place at Yale New Haven Children's Hospital.
- All the appropriate paper work will be completed during your visit with us, and in most cases, there is no need for further preoperative physicals or paperwork prior to the surgery.

### **The Day before the procedure:**

You will be contacted by the Operating Room scheduling staff the afternoon of the day before your child's procedure to inform you of the time your child is scheduled.

Your child may have anything to eat or drink up until midnight the day before the procedure. Clear fluids only (water/apple juice) may be consumed up to two hours before surgery. No chewing gum.

## **THE DAY OF SURGERY....**

The surgery is performed in the Pediatric Operating Room at Yale. This is located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Yale New Haven Children's Hospital. You may valet park your car & it will be stamped at the end of the day by the OR/PACU staff.

### **Procedure:**

The procedure will take approximately 15-40 minutes. Your child will be given general anesthesia, which means he/she will be asleep completely for the procedure. General anesthetic relaxes your muscles, puts you to sleep, and prevents you from feeling pain. He/she may receive an (IV) intravenous in order to receive medication and fluids during the surgery. Your doctor will pass a tube into your child's mouth and then throat, down the windpipe, and into the lungs. If your doctor finds growths, sores, or other unhealthy tissue or cells, he or she may remove them or take a sample. If an object or foreign body is found, it is usually removed.

### **Post-Procedure instructions:**

Following the procedure, your child will go to the pediatric Post-Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU). You can be with your child at this time. Some children are disoriented and upset as they come out of the anesthesia. This is normal. Your child may feel a slight sore throat or have a hoarse voice when he/she wakes up. For the sore throat and hoarseness, lozenges or soothing gargles may be helpful (for children over 3 years). Depending on what was done during the bronchoscopy, your child may be observed for a brief period of time or stay many hours in the recovery room or overnight in the hospital. Your child may complain of a sore neck or jaw as the result of positioning during the procedure. Your child will be ready to go home once they are drinking and acting like themselves again. This normally takes an hour or two.

Follow-up appointments and recommendations will be given to you on the day of the procedure.

### **When to call?**

If you have a concern at all, please contact our office at 203-245-0496.

Call our office if your child develops a fever.

### **SEEK EMERGENCY CARE IF:**

**Your child has shortness of breath.**

**Your child is coughing up blood.**

**Your child has new or increased wheezing.**