

Having a Bronchoscopy



Endoscopy Unit

patient**information**

Welcome to the Endoscopy Unit

The Unit is situated on the Level 'C' main corridor, next door to the Chapel. The purpose built unit was opened in September 1994, to undertake various endoscopic procedures. Your appointment is classed as a Clinical Procedure and not an out-patient appointment.

Opening Times

Monday to Friday 8.00am to 6.00pm

Weekends & Bank Holiday Closed

Telephone

For general enquiries, both you, your relatives and friends may dial directly to the department's reception desk.

The Reception number is

Rotherham (01709) 424439

If you need to change your appointment, the number is (01709) 427277

Endoscopist

Mrs J D'Silva (01709) 427287

Endoscopy Sisters

Sister J Bonser

Sister L Kinteh

(01709) 424450

The Trust operates a No Smoking Policy on all premises and grounds.

Having a Bronchoscopy

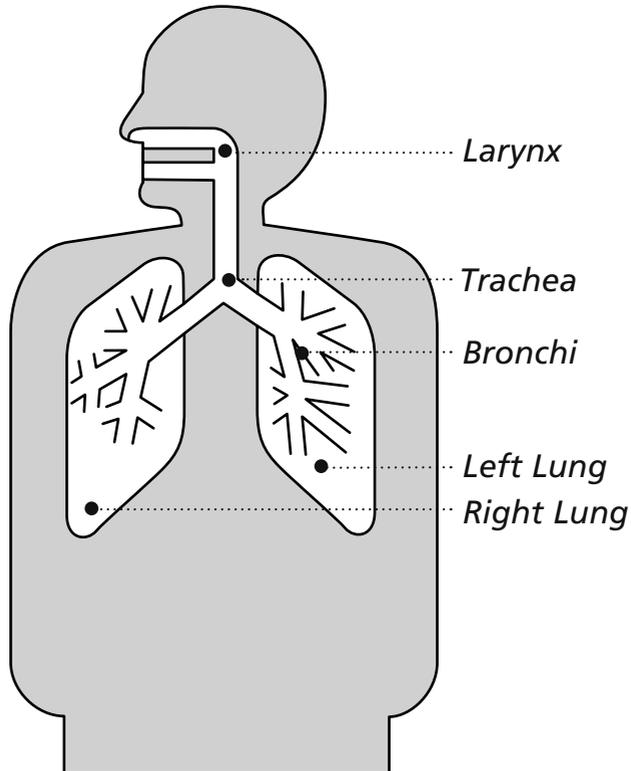
Introduction

You have been advised to have a Bronchoscopy, to help find the cause of your symptoms.

The doctor is able to look directly at the trachea (the windpipe) and the bronchi (branches of the airways).

What is a bronchoscope?

A bronchoscope is a long flexible tube, about the width of a thin pencil, with a bright light and camera at the end. This enables the doctor to get a clear view of the different areas of your chest projected on a screen



If you are having a bronchoscopy

Risks:

In order to investigate your problems further your doctor has carefully weighed up the risks and benefits of this procedure. The vast majority of procedures go without complication but all hospital procedures do unavoidably carry a small risk. You need to be aware of these risks in order for you to give informed consent.

Common events after this procedure include:

- Cough
- Wheeze
- Breathlessness
- Chest pain
- A temperature

These are generally not serious and self-limiting. You may already be experiencing some of these symptoms. You may also cough up a small amount of blood after the procedure, particularly if biopsies (tissue samples) have been taken; this again is usually self-limiting. With some types of biopsy there is a small risk of puncturing the lining of the lung, which if occurs, may cause some degree of lung collapse. This may require observation in hospital and possibly the insertion of a chest tube to help the lung expand.

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- There is a small risk that the sedative may affect your breathing
- There is a risk of aggravating any preexisting breathing problems
- There is a risk of provoking an irregular heartbeat
- There is a risk of provoking congestion of the heart and lungs

These risks are small but occasionally can develop into major complications. The risk of a major complication with this procedure is about 1 patient in every 1,000 procedures. The risk of dying with this procedure is about 1 patient in every 4,000 procedures. The risk is greater in those who already have a heart or lung disease.

The consequence of not having this investigation include:

- Delayed or incorrect diagnosis
- Inappropriate or delayed treatment

In order for you to sign a consent form you need to be aware of the risks of the procedure and the benefits of having the procedure. We will give you what we believe to be the most appropriate advice, however the final decision is yours.

Preparation

When you attend the Out-Patients Clinic, the doctor will explain the test to you, and ask you to sign a consent form. This is to ensure you understand the test, and its implications.

Once you have signed the consent form you are free to withdraw consent at any time in the future. If you feel that you need to think about these issues further, please take your time but also recognise that a prolonged delay in having this investigation may delay diagnosis and effective treatment.

You will be asked to come to the endoscopy unit on the day of the test. You should have nothing to eat or drink for 4 hours before the procedure, except water which can be taken until 2 hours before the test. Please remove any finger nail varnish before the test.

On arrival

On arrival, you will be asked about your health and medication. When you are changed, you will be made comfortable on a trolley. The nurses will take your blood pressure and pulse.

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During the test

You will be taken to the examination room. The doctor may give you an injection, to make you feel relaxed and sleepy. A soft plastic tube will be placed just inside your nostril, to give you some extra oxygen. A plastic clip will be placed over a finger end, to monitor the amount of oxygen in your body and your pulse rate.

A local anaesthetic may be sprayed into your nose and through your mouth to the back of your throat. This tastes rather bitter.

The bronchoscope is passed through your nostril or mouth and as the tube is passed, more local anaesthetic may be sprayed through the bronchoscope to numb your voice box. This may make you cough, but as the anaesthetic takes effect, your throat will relax.

How long does it take?

It usually takes about 15 - 20 minutes to examine the areas carefully.

During the test, different procedures may be performed to obtain biopsies (small pieces of tissue), for further examination in the laboratory. This is usually a painless procedure, and is performed by passing tiny forceps through the bronchoscope. Washings of the lungs may be performed, to enable the doctor to send sputum specimens to the laboratory. This is done by passing saline (salt water) down the bronchoscope into the lungs, and sucking it back into a sputum trap. Again, there is usually no pain involved.

After the procedure, you will be returned to the recovery area, where you will rest on the trolley.

You will then be escorted to the seated area by a member of staff. When the effects of the local anaesthetic spray have worn off, sips of water are given at first, then later you will be able to eat and drink normally.

You will remain on the endoscopy unit for about an hour after the procedure.

After the Test

Are there any side effects?

Your throat will be numb immediately after the procedure, from the effects of the local anaesthetic. Your swallowing reflex should return to normal within an hour or two when you should be able to eat and drink normally.

After the test you may have a slight nosebleed, and if a biopsy is taken, you may find streaks of blood in your phlegm.

You may experience soreness in the throat, or a hoarse voice. This will ease within a day or so. Throat lozenges may help to soothe it.

Going home

If you are going home after the procedure, following sedation, it is helpful if someone comes to the unit to collect you.

Once home, it is important that you rest quietly for the rest of the day. Sedation lasts longer than you think. For the first 24 hours following sedation, you should not do any of the following:

- **Don't drive** - Your judgement will be poor and you may have an accident
- **Don't operate machinery**
- **Don't drink alcohol** - This will make you more drowsy
- **Don't travel** alone by bus
- **Don't return to work**
- **Don't sign** any legal or official documents

The effects of the procedure and injection should have worn off by the following day, and the majority of patients are able to resume normal activities.

When am I notified of the results?

In many cases, the doctor or nurse will be able to give you the results shortly after completion of the procedure, or when you are awake. However, if biopsy specimens have been taken, the results may take several days.

It is a good idea to have someone with you when the doctor/nurse speaks to you, as the effects of sedation causes many people to forget what has been said to them.

It may be necessary to repeat the Bronchoscopy at a later date, in order to confirm the diagnosis (result), or assess the effects of any treatment prescribed. Repeated examinations are not harmful.

Should you have any worries or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the Endoscopy Unit, where the staff will be happy to help.

Telephone 01709 424439

How to contact us
Endoscopy Service

Telephone 01709 427287

Switchboard

Telephone 01709 820000

Useful contact numbers

NHS 111 Service

Telephone 111

Health Info

Telephone 01709 427190

Stop Smoking Service

Telephone 01709 422444

A&E

Telephone 01709 424455

**For GP out of hours,
contact your surgery**

Useful websites

www.therotherhamft.nhs.uk

www.nhs.uk

www.gov.uk

We value your comments

If you have any comments or concerns about the services we have provided please let us know, or alternatively you can contact the Patient Experience Team.

Patient Experience Team

The Oldfield Centre
The Rotherham NHS
Foundation Trust
Rotherham Hospital
Moorgate Road
Rotherham
S60 2UD

Telephone: 01709 424461

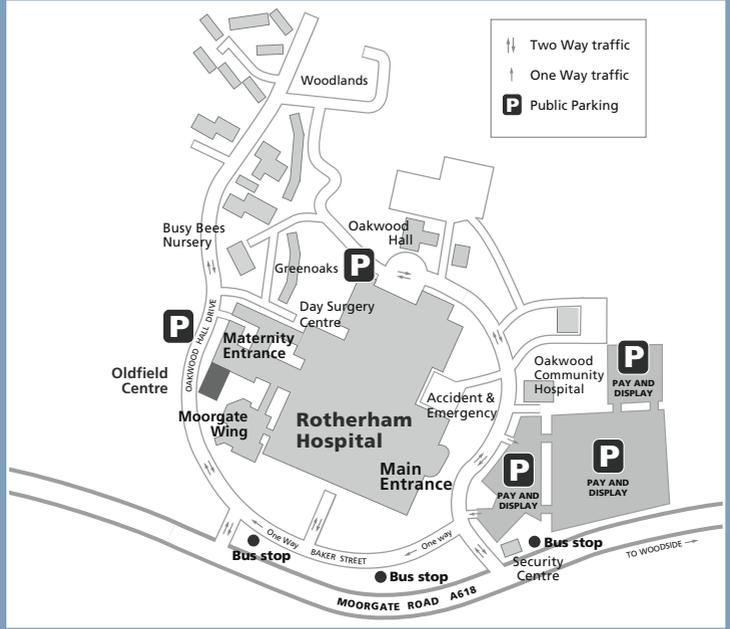
Monday to Friday

9.00am until 4.00pm

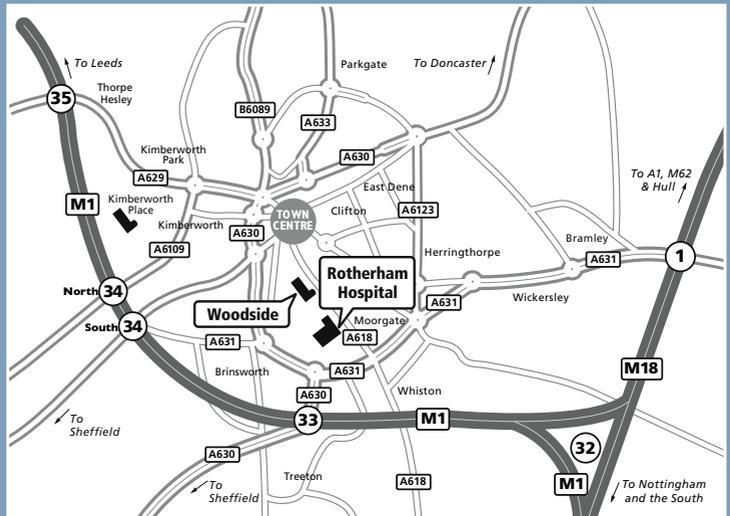
Email: yourexperience@rothgen.nhs.uk

How to find us

Hospital site plan



Rotherham main routes





LS XXX01/15 V3 Jones & Brooks



The Rotherham **NHS**
NHS Foundation Trust

Rotherham Hospital
Moorgate Road
Oakwood
Rotherham
S60 2UD

Telephone 01709 820000
www.therotherhamft.nhs.uk

