

## Bronchoscopy

A bronchoscopy is a procedure that lets the doctors look at your child's lungs and airways from the inside while they are under a general anaesthetic. It is important as it allows them to see the mucus in your child's lungs and look for signs of infection or inflammation. Your child will usually have a bronchoscopy annually until they are six years old, as they are too young to cough up a mucus sample.

### How is it Done?

A flexible tube with a bright light and camera is used; this is called a bronchoscope. The bronchoscope is passed through the mouth or nose and goes all the way down to the lower airways, or bronchi.

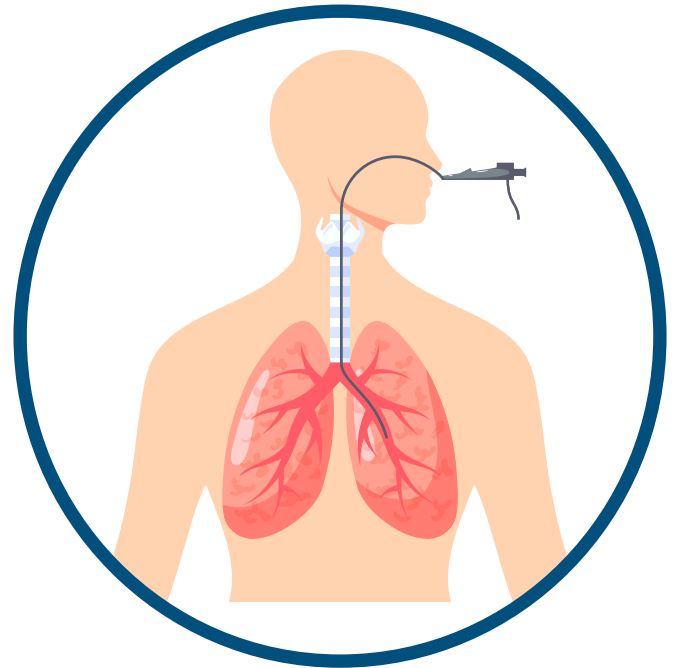
The camera can take pictures or videos on the way down and this helps the doctors see what is happening in the lungs so they can decide on the best treatment for your child. They might also put a small amount of saline, or salty water, into the airways and suck it back out through the bronchoscope to look for infection.

### How Long Does it Take?

A bronchoscopy takes about half an hour and parents or other carer are welcome to stay with their child until they go to sleep and come back in when they are waking up. Once fully awake and eating and drinking, your child can go home. Sometimes children might stay in hospital overnight or a bit longer if the doctors want to start treatment.

### What is the Recovery Like?

After a bronchoscopy your child might cough a bit more for a couple of days or have a sore throat.



You might also notice some noisy breathing or a hoarse voice. If you are worried about anything or have any questions, make sure you ask your CF team.

### Useful Resources

- [Bronchoscopies for monitoring young children with CF](#) (PCH)
- [Preparing for your child's bronchoscopy](#) (PCH)
- [CFWA Factsheets](#)

Last reviewed May 2023.

Cystic Fibrosis WA  
The Niche  
11 Aberdare Road  
Nedlands WA 6009

T: 08 6224 4100  
E: [info@cfwa.org.au](mailto:info@cfwa.org.au)

Disclaimer: This publication is for general education and information purposes. Contact a qualified healthcare professional for any medical advice needed.

© Cystic Fibrosis Western Australia 2023