Investigation of the Chest and Lungs

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If you have any questions, please ask your healthcare provider.

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The information in this pamphlet is to be updated every 3 years.
of the lung tissues are possible. If any air leaks in the lung tissue occur, you would need to have a tube placed between the ribs for several days to remove the air.

At Home

- Eat healthy food to help your incision heal.
- Follow any special diet that you have been given by the dietitian.
- If Steri-Strips™ are used to close the incision:
  - Pat dry if they get wet. Do not rub them.
  - Leave on for 5-7 days. Remove after a shower or bath.
- Call your surgeon if you have:
  - a fever
  - any discharge or pus from your incision.
- Ask your surgeon about any concerns.
- Keep your return appointment with your surgeon.

Investigation of the Chest and Lungs

Some New Words

Bronchus
These tubes connect the lungs to the windpipe.

Intravenous (IV)
A small plastic tube is placed into a vein of your arm to give fluids or medication.

Lymph System
A system like the venous system which returns fluid to the heart. This system also helps to fight off many diseases.

Lymph Node
A small amount of lymphatic tissue which drains fluids which may collect in different areas of the body.

Mediastinum
The area behind the breastbone that contains the heart, blood vessels, the windpipe and parts of the lymph system.

Pathologist
A doctor who specializes in the study of changes in tissues that are caused by disease.
Bronchoscopy
This test allows your doctor to inspect your windpipe, the tubes that carry air to and from the lungs. Bronchoscopy is useful in looking for bleeding, secretions, tumour, blockage, or other disease. A biopsy may be done.

A tube is passed through your mouth or your nose into your windpipe and into the lungs. A bronchoscopy takes about 60 minutes.

After
- You may be given a mask to ease your coughing.
- You may cough up small tinges of blood after the test. Tell the nurse if you cough up blood, are short of breath or are feeling wheezy.

Biopsy
A biopsy (a sample of tissue) may be taken and sent for testing. A pathologist will study the tissue under a microscope and give the results to your doctor. Your doctor will then discuss the results and any treatment that you may need with you and your family, if you wish.

Mediastinoscopy
A small incision is made just above your collarbone. An instrument (about 1-2 cm. in diameter) is passed through the incision. This enables your doctor to see the tissues in the chest and around the lungs. It also allows the doctor to reach tissues like lymph nodes that otherwise would require a big operation. Samples can be taken and sent for study.

After the Anesthetic
- You can expect the usual effects of being put to sleep, such as:
  - nausea
  - sore throat.
- You may be stiff from the position you were in during the test.
- You will have an intravenous until you are fully awake.
- You may need a medication such as acetaminophen (Tylenol®) to relieve the pain in the incision.
- You will have a dressing over your incision until the next morning.

Side Effects
Side effects are rare but do occur. Bruising and swelling will subside in 4-7 days. Bleeding, infection and tearing
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