

Bronchoscopy

Why is bronchoscopy done?

- There can be many reasons a few of them are:
 - Remove foreign bodies
 - Look for cancer
 - Check the normal air passages

Will there be any scars?

- No, the entire procedure is done through the mouth

What are the risks?

- Damage to the teeth is by far the biggest risk. Because it is all done through the mouth the top front teeth are the most often damaged. Anything along the airway can also be damaged. This includes the wind pipe, vocal cords, lungs, mouth, and tongue. As the airway must be shared with the surgeon and the anesthesiologist the loss of the airway is also a risk. All of these risks are very rare and even damage to the teeth is a very rare event, and usually only come with some extraordinary circumstances, such as an emergency situation, unusual anatomy, or the only situation I have ever seen: rotten teeth.

Why is an ENT looking for cancer in the lungs?

- While an ENT is most commonly treating cancer in the throat and vocal folds there is a high chance of someone getting multiple cancers. Someone with a cancer in their vocal folds has a 10% chance of getting a cancer in their esophagus (food pipe) or airway during their lifetime.

Why does an ENT doctor look in the lungs?

- Most people do not realize that endoscopy (looking into the esophagus (food pipe) and airway) began with an ENT physician, Chevalier Jackson. I was fortunate enough to train with someone who personally knew and trained under Chevalier Jackson.

What do you expect to find?

- This depends greatly on what the problem is. With breathing problems we may be looking for a foreign body, or maybe an anatomic abnormality. In small children the airway cartilage may not be strong enough to hold the airway open. Cancer can show up as an obvious growth in the airway.

As a Christian I strongly believe in prayer, and pray for all of my patients, especially during surgery. If you would like me to pray with you and your family before any surgical procedure please ask.

DO NOT hesitate to contact our office for any emergency at 580-421-6470. If a problem should arise when the office is closed, you may contact us through Valley View hospital at (580) 332-2323; or go directly to the nearest Emergency Room.

More information can be found at www.LandrumENT.com.