Royal Berkshire
NHS Foundation Trust

Bronchoscopy aftercare advice

Today you have had a bronchoscopy (an examination of your airways using a flexible tube). You are unlikely to have any serious side effects but please be aware of the following information and advice.

What to expect after your procedure

- **Please note that as you have had sedation you are not permitted to drive, take alcohol, operate heavy machinery or sign any legally binding documents for 24 hours. Following the procedure you must have someone to accompany you home and stay with you for up to 8 hours. You are not allowed home alone in a taxi.**
- You may feel drowsy for several hours.
- You may eat and drink 1½ hours after the procedure, although you are likely to have had a drink before you left the hospital today.
- You may have a sore throat and nose for a few hours and sometimes the next day, especially if you have been coughing frequently.
- You may experience some coughing and see some blood-stained sputum. This should settle down. If you cough up a large amount of fresh blood you should seek medical advice/assistance from your GP or the Endoscopy Unit.
- You may have some chest discomfort or a mild temperature. A simple painkiller, such as Paracetamol should relieve this. Please follow dosage instructions on the packet.
- If you experience sudden shortness of breath, **please contact your GP immediately,** informing them that you had a bronchoscopy.

Contact information

Up to 7 days after your procedure, contact the Endoscopy Unit (Mon-Fri 9am – 5pm) on 0118 322 7458 / 7459. Out of hours and weekends, ring Sidmouth Ward on 0118 322 7467 / 7468.

To find out more about our Trust visit www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk

Please ask if you need this information in another language or format.

RBFT Endoscopy Unit, April 2025. Next review due: April 2027.

Endoscopy Unit Survey