

## **Having a Bronchoscopy and Stent.** **Patient Information.**

It is intended that this information will help you to understand what a bronchoscopy and stent is, and what is likely to happen to you when you come into hospital for this procedure. Of course, every patient is different and this information offers a general guide. If there is anything you do not understand, please do not be afraid to ask any of the medical and nursing staff on the ward. It may be helpful to write down the questions as they arise, or circle things on this sheet to remind you of the things you were unsure about.

### **What is a Bronchoscopy?**

A bronchoscopy is the passage of an endoscope (camera), through the larynx (via the mouth) and trachea and into the main airway branches. There are two types of bronchoscope, rigid and flexible. They are used to see into the airway in order to make a diagnosis, to take biopsies, remove secretions and in the case of stenting, to insert the stent into the airway. The surgeon uses a rigid bronchoscope to insert a stent under a general anaesthetic.

### **What is a stent?**

A stent is rubber or mesh which is expandable. It is inserted into the airway via the bronchoscope in order to maintain the patency of the airway (it helps the airway remain open to air flow). The airway may have become narrowed or blocked due to a tumour or damage caused by other treatment of a tumour, (surgery or radiation). Airways can also become narrowed for other reasons, such as injury caused for instance by a burn.

### **What will happen in hospital?**

On admission to hospital you can expect the following:-

- To be seen by a doctor for an examination and to have a medical history taken, and you will sign a consent form.
- To be seen by a nurse, who will assess the needs you may have whilst in hospital.
- To have your height, weight, blood pressure, pulse, temperature, respiration rate and oxygen saturations measured. You will also have blood samples taken.
- To have a chest X Ray
- To have an ECG (heart tracing) taken.
- To be seen by an anaesthetist.
- To be fasted prior to the procedure.
- To be asked to shower and put a gown on.

You will be taken to the anaesthetic room, by a nurse and a porter.

After the operation, you will be taken to the Post Anaesthetic Care Unit, here you will be closely monitored to ensure that you recover from the general anaesthetic.

On return to the ward, you will remain in bed, in an upright position and the nurses will continue to monitor your, blood pressure, pulse, temperature, respiration rate and level of oxygen saturation.

You can also expect that:-

- You will be given antibiotics to protect you from an infection. These may be given intravenously.
- You should be able to eat and drink fairly soon after you return to the ward. Your nurse will be able to advise you when to start taking sips depending on how sleepy you are.
- Your fluid intake will be monitored until nursing and medical staff are happy that you drinking good amounts and that you have passed urine.
- You will have a chest X Ray.
- You will be given pain killers. These will be given regularly by the nursing staff and you will be asked to alert staff if you are in pain.
- You may be seen by a physiotherapist, who will ensure that you are breathing effectively and that you are able to clear any sputum.
- You may be provided with a nebuliser (drugs in solution which are inhaled via a mask). This will ensure that any sputum in your chest is loosened, and that the airways are opening well, so that the stent doesn't get blocked.

When it is felt by the team on the ward that you are fit for discharge, this will be planned with you. You may have some medication to take home with you. These will be explained to you by your nurse. You will be sent an appointment to see the surgeon in out patients clinic. On discharge, you should gradually resume your usual daily activities.

When you go home after a bronchoscopy and stent you should contact a doctor if you develop any of the following symptoms,

Pain in your chest.

Shortness of breath.

Wheezing.

Coughing

Coughing up blood.

These symptoms may be a sign that the stent has moved or become blocked.