



Laryngoscopy/Bronchoscopy

Patient and Family Education

This teaching sheet contains general information. If you have any additional questions, please speak with the office nurse at (813) 262-1330.

What is a Laryngoscopy or Rigid Bronchoscopy?

A laryngoscopy and/or rigid bronchoscopy is a procedure used to look at the voicebox (larynx), windpipe (trachea) and air passages (bronchi) in the lungs. This is done under general anesthesia in an operating room. Instruments including laryngoscopes and bronchoscope can be carefully placed through the mouth and passed down to evaluate the larynx, trachea and into the large airways of the lungs. A telescope with a lighted camera is used to assist in evaluation for disease in this area of the body. A small sample of tissue (biopsy) or mucus may be taken during this procedure. Other interventions often can be combined with this airway evaluation when indicated such as injection of medications (i.e. anti-inflammatory steroids) or dilation of a narrowed airway with a balloon.

How long will it take to recover?

Most children are back to normal within 24 hours after surgery. Your child may complain of a sore throat or vocal hoarseness for 1-2 days.

How can I take care of my child after surgery?

1. **Diet:** Your child can eat or drink whatever they want. If they experience a sore throat, consider a soft diet and plenty of fluids (non-carbonated).
2. **Pain Medicines:** Give pain medicine (Tylenol or Motrin) every 4 to 6 hours if needed. If your child has severe pain, please call our office.
3. **Fever Medicines:** A low grade fever less than 101.5°F may occur after surgery and can be treated with Tylenol. If the fever persists for more than 12 hours please call our office.
4. **Bleeding:** There should not be any bleeding from the mouth after your child returns home. If there is any bleeding please call our office right away.
5. **Activity:** It is best for your child to rest at home the day of surgery. Normal activities can start as soon as your child feels up to it. There is no rule for the right time to go back to school, but a guideline is 1-2 days.
6. **Breathing:** Child should be breathing comfortably afterward. Noisy breathing, fast breathing, or increased respiratory effort after the procedure warrants a phone call to the surgeon.
7. **Post-Op Appointment:** A follow up appointment should be made in our office for 2-3 weeks after surgery, please call if not already scheduled.

When should I call the doctor?

Call the office if your child experiences:

- A temperature over 101.5° F
- Fevers that persist for more than 12 hours post-surgery
- Bleeding from the mouth or nose
- Noisy or difficulty breathing
- If you have any concerns about how your child looks or feels