

Endobronchial Ultrasound (EBUS)

Endobronchial ultrasound (EBUS): information for patients

This information leaflet is to help you understand what to expect from having an EBUS. Please do ask your doctors and specialist nurses if you have any further questions.

What is an endobronchial ultrasound (EBUS)?

An EBUS is a day case procedure in Endoscopy which inspects the airways and lymph glands in your lungs. It uses a flexible camera with an ultrasound tip, which enables the doctor to take samples of your lymph glands and/or lung tissue.

How do I need to prepare for the test?

Do not have anything to eat or drink for 4 hours before the test. Your doctor and specialist nurses will advise you if you need to stop any medications before the test. As the test requires you to have sedation, you will need a responsible adult to collect you from the hospital after the test and stay with you at home overnight following an EBUS.

What will happen during the test?

Local anaesthetic will be sprayed at the back of your throat and then you will be given sedative medications by injection to make the test as comfortable as possible for you. Once you have received adequate sedation, the trolley will be lowered flat so the EBUS can begin. The procedure will take on average between 30-40 minutes. To maintain comfort during the procedure, the doctors will use the camera to spray local anaesthetic to your airways and can also give more sedation injections if necessary.

What will happen after the test?

You will be monitored in recovery for up to 2 hours until your nurse is sure that it is safe for you to leave the hospital. You will be advised not to eat or drink for 2 hours after the test which gives enough time for the local anaesthetic in your throat to wear off. Because you will have received sedative injections, we advise you not to drive, operate machinery, drink alcohol or make important decisions (e.g. signing important legal documents) for 24 hours after this test.

Are there any risks with the test?

EBUS is a safe test. You will mainly notice a cough during the procedure and any bleeding that occurs from taking samples is usually minor and easily managed. Any life threatening complications (including death) with EBUS are extremely rare, and are estimated to occur at a frequency of less than 1 in 3000.

When will I get the test results?

After an EBUS, we would normally arrange for you to come back to the lung clinic the following week for the results, which gives enough time for your samples to be accurately analysed in the lab.

EBUS appointment details

Your EBUS will be done in Endoscopy on:

- Date:

- Time:

- Nil by mouth from:

- Any medication changes:

Follow up appointment details

- Date:

- Time:

Contact details

If you have any further questions about your test, you can contact

- Lung specialist Nurses: 0191 445 2881
- Respiratory secretaries: 0191 445 2182/445 6030
- Endoscopy unit: 0191 445 2586

Data Protection

Any personal information is kept confidential. There may be occasions where your information needs to be shared with other care professionals to ensure you receive the best care possible.

In order to assist us to improve the services available, your information may be used for clinical audit, research, teaching and anonymised for National NHS Reviews. Further information is available in the leaflet Disclosure of Confidential Information IL137, via Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust website or the PALS Service.

This leaflet can be made available in other languages and formats upon request

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