

# Medical Thoracoscopy

Prepared by Dr Majid Mushtaq  
Adopted with kind permission of Dr M Munawar, Preston University Hospitals

The test takes 30-45 minutes

## After the test

You will find a catheter attached to chest and connected with a plastic bottle . You may experience some pain and pain killers will be given to help that. You will be moved to a ward and most patients are discharged within 72 hours of the procedure.

## Risks

Thoracoscopy is a safe procedure but rarely can lead to complications. This include infections, serious bleeding and persistent pain.



### For more information

Marika Townsend  
Specialist Lung Nurse  
Tel: 01322-428

Tony and Annette  
Endoscopy Department  
Tel: 01322



X-ray without the Pleurak fluid.

Darent Valley Hospital



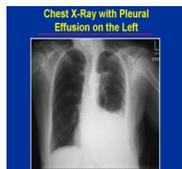
# Medical Thoracoscopy



Department of Respiratory Medicine

Tel: 01322-428218

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## Chest Xray showing Fluid in the Pleural Cavity

A thoracoscopy is a test that allows the doctor to look at the pleural cavity (lining of the lung). The thoracoscope is a long tube with a bright light and camera at the end. It is inserted through a small incision made in the side of the ribcage. This allows the doctor to get a clear view of the lining of the lungs, to learn more about the illness and the cause of the fluid in your chest. In addition, the thoracoscope enables samples to be taken from inside the chest and any fluid to be drained. Sometimes we can also do something to stop the fluid recurring in the future. There is not usually any alternative to this procedure.

## Who will perform my Thoracoscopy

Dr.M.Mushtaq, who is a consultant in Respiratory Medicine, will carry out the test.

## What to expect

You may be admitted to the ward the day before your procedure. Please bring with you any belongings you may need for a short stay in the hospital (at least 24 hours). The doctor will take a medical history from you and certain tests may be carried out prior to thoracoscopy e.g blood tests and chest X-ray. A nurse will explain the procedure to you and this is your opportunity to ask any questions you have. Do not be afraid to let the nurse know if you are worried.

## Medication

Please bring any tablets, ointments or injections you are taking. If you are taking WARFARIN it is important you ring the unit a week before the test and ask to speak to the nurse.

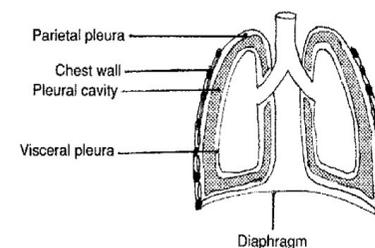
## On the day of the test

Your thoracoscopy will normally be carried out in the afternoon.

It is important that you have nothing to eat for 4 hours prior to the test and drink only clear fluids up to 2 hours prior to the test.

## During the test

The test will be carried in the Endoscopy Unit. The doctor will insert a small plastic tube into a vein and give you an injection to make you feel sleepy. The sedative is not a general anesthetic and although most patients have no memory



of the examination, some people do remember part or all of it. A clip will be attached to the finger to monitor the oxygen level and you may be given oxygen through a catheter attached to your nose.

You will be lying on your side. The doctor will mark the best area and local anesthetic will be injected after cleaning the skin with antiseptic solution. The local anesthetic initially stings but soon the area become numb. The doctor then will make a small incision and introduce the thoracoscope (camera) to look inside of chest. The required samples are collected. This process is painless but you may still have some sensation. Special powder to glue the two membranes of Pleura is applied. The process ends by leaving a thin catheter through the same incision to drain any remaining fluid over the next day or two.