

Section: Division of Nursing

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PROCEDURE

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HACKETTSTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

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MINOR PROCEDURE

(Scope)

TITLE: BRONCHOALVEOLAR LAVAGE/WASHINGS

PURPOSE: To outline the steps for assisting with a bronchoalveolar lavage/washings

- SUPPORTIVE DATA:
1. Bronchoalveolar lavage is the washing of the lung during flexible bronchoscopy to remove material for microscopic inspection and/or culture.
 2. Indications:
 - a. Suspected interstitial lung diseases.
 - b. Confirmation of the need for further diagnostic testing (i.e., open lung biopsy).
 - c. Suspected diffuse air space infections such as pneumocystis, pneumonia, and Legionella, viral, protozoan, fungal, and mycobacterial infections.

- EQUIPMENT LIST:
1. Refer to "Flexible Bronchoscopy" procedure.
 2. Refer to "Safety" protocol.
 3. 50 ml specimen trap
 4. Specimen labels and lab slips.

CONTENT: PROCEDURE STEPS

KEY POINTS

A. Pre-Procedure Assessment/Care:

1. Refer to "Flexible Bronchoscopy" procedure.

Contraindications:

1. Acute asthmatic episode
2. Patient not NPO for six (6) hours
3. Hypoxia, unless patient is intubated
4. Uncooperative patient

B. Responsibilities During Procedure:

1. Assist the physician with the bronchoscopy. The tip of the scope will be wedged into the subsegment to be lavaged. The lower and middle lobes are most often lavaged due to the higher rate of return of lavage fluid.
2. Assist the physician with instillation of normal saline into suction channel to cleanse the channel. Change specimen trap as requested.

Potential Complications:

1. Transient fever
2. Bleeding
3. Pneumothorax
4. Hypoxemia
5. Cardiac arrhythmias
6. Respiratory and/or cardiac arrest
7. Pulmonary hypertension
8. Laryngospasm
9. Reaction to topical anesthetic
10. Hypoventilation
11. Myocardial infarction
12. Post-bronchoscopy fever/infection

3. If lavaging from several sites in the lung, separate specimens as directed by physician. Identify site of each specimen on label.
4. Label each specimen trap with pertinent patient information and send all specimens to the Lab.
5. Document that washings were obtained and type of lab test to be performed.

C. Post Procedure Assessment/Care:

1. Refer to "Flexible Bronchoscopy" procedure.
2. Refer to "Lung Biopsy, Endobronchial & Transbronchial" procedure.