

Section: Division of Nursing

* PROCEDURE *

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Approval: Creamer RN BSN

HACKETTSTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

Originator: M. Kohmescher, RN, CGRN
J. Sigall, RN
Revised by: M Brameyer RN

Minor Procedures
(Scope)

TITLE: BRONCHIAL BRUSHINGS

PURPOSE: To outline the steps for obtaining small tissue samples for microscopic examination by passing a brush instrument into the lung via a flexible bronchoscope.

SUPPORTIVE DATA: Indications:
1. Suspicion of abnormal tissue
2. Confirmation of normal tissue
3. Suspicion of abnormal culture (e.g., acid fast bacillus, fungus).

EQUIPMENT LIST:
1. Refer to "Flexible Bronchoscopy" procedure.
2. Refer to "Safety" protocol in structure portion of Minor Procedure Manual
3. Sterile Cytology Brush
4. Nonbacteriostatic saline
5. Gauze sponges
6. Wire cutters
7. Sterile specimen cup

CONTENT: PROCEDURE STEPS: KEY POINTS:

A. Pre-Procedure Assessment/Care:
1. Refer to "Flexible Bronchoscopy" procedure
2. Refer to "Lung Biopsy – Endobronchial and Transbronchial" procedure.
3. Reassure patient that brushing procedure is painless.
4. Reassure patient that brush biopsies are done for reasons other than suspicion of cancer.
5. Inform patient of what may be heard during the process of brush biopsies (e.g., "brush out" and "brush in").
6. Push brush out of sheath after brushing completed. Snip off brush with wire and drop into sterile container.
7. Document patient teaching and comprehension.

B. Responsibilities During Procedure
1. Refer to "Flexible Bronchoscopy" procedure.
2. Assist the physician as he passes the cytology brush.
3. Open and close the cytology brush at the physician's request.

Potential Complications:
1. Bleeding
2. Pneumothorax
3. Fever and/or bacteremia

4. Withdraw the cytology brush from the channel in the closed position.
5. When withdrawing the brush, wipe the shaft with a gauze sponge to remove secretions.
6. Preserve the cytology specimens per physician request:
 - a. Specimens may be transferred to a labeled glass slide and sprayed with fixative.
 - b. Brush may be agitated in a small volume of sterile saline in a tube.
 - c. Cytology brush may be cut off into sterile cup.
7. Properly handle, preserve and label all specimens.
8. Document that brushing sample was obtained.

**C. Post-Procedure
Assessment/Care**

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

Reference: MANUAL PULMONARY PROCEDURES, PULMONARY FOR ENDOSCOPY NURSES SGNA, Inc. 2001, Kathleen Domkowski, MS RNC Edition