Endobronchial Ultrasound (EBUS)

What Is It?
A minimally invasive procedure that combines a bronchoscope with a needle to remove tissue or fluid samples from lymph nodes. The advantages of EBUS are that it is very reliable, not painful, and results in a quick recovery.

When Is It Used?
EBUS is most effective at collecting samples from hard-to-reach places in the lungs as well as from lymph nodes and other small areas for tissue samples.

What Happens During the Procedure?
The patient is given an intravenous sedation and local anesthetic that is sprayed into the mouth to numb the throat. A bronchoscope is then inserted into the nose or mouth and fed down until it reaches the lungs. A special tube containing an ultrasound processor inside the bronchoscope guides doctors to the right place. Doctors can then capture accurate images of the area as well as guide the needle to the exact location needed. Sample cells, fluid, or tissue are then collected via the needle. The tube is then removed, and the sample is sent for pathologic and microscopic evaluation.

What’s Recovery Like?
Recovery for EBUS is similar to recovery for any bronchoscopy procedure. Patients remain in recovery for a couple of hours while the numbing agent wears off to ensure that the gag reflex goes back to normal. You may experience a scratchy throat or some hoarseness for a few days.

Learn More
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