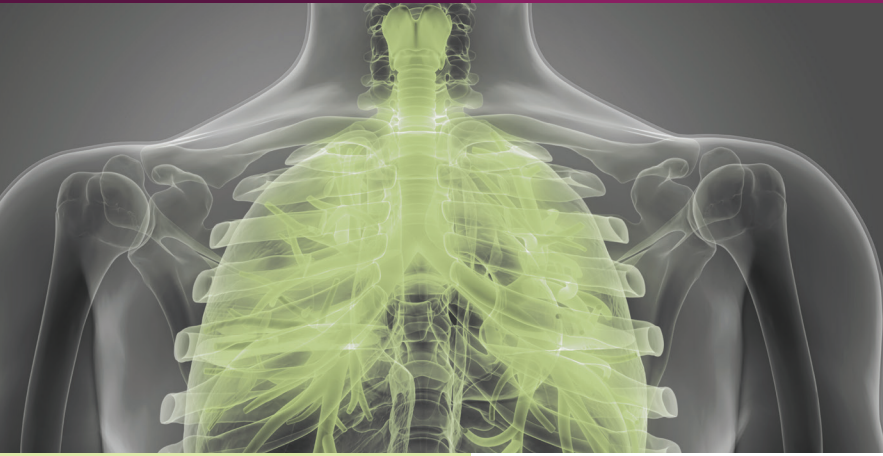


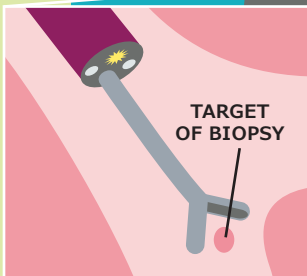
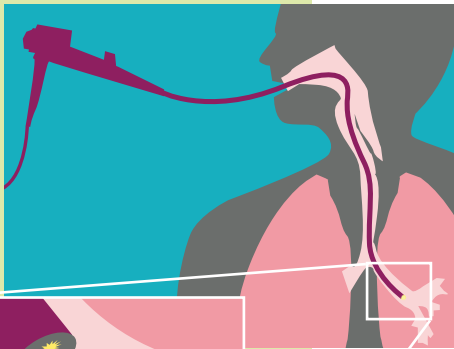
TYPES OF LUNG CANCER BIOPSIES



Transbronchial Biopsy

What Is It?

A minimally invasive procedure that uses a bronchoscope to collect tissue samples from the lungs in order to determine whether cancer is present and how far it has spread. The advantages of transbronchial biopsies are that they are relatively easy to do and give doctors a clear picture of tissue in the airways.



When Is It Used?

Transbronchial biopsies are often used to examine tissue or nodules in the airways.

Two Types of Bronchoscopes

Flexible: Made of fiber optics, this slender, flexible tube is most commonly used for transbronchial biopsies to collect small tissue cells and can be employed using a local anesthetic.

Rigid: Made of a straight, hollow tube that allows removal of larger tissue samples and is employed under general anesthesia.

What Happens During the Procedure?

The patient is given an intravenous sedation and a numbing spray in the throat to prevent gagging. The flexible bronchoscope is then inserted into the nose or mouth and fed down to the airways. Imaging, like an ultrasound or CT scan, helps doctors guide the bronchoscope to the right place. The bronchoscope contains a tiny light and camera for doctors to see inside the lung. It also has small forceps used to remove tissue samples. Once the samples are collected, the tube is removed, and the samples are sent for pathologic and microscopic evaluation.

What's Recovery Like?

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.



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