

# Laser Bronchoscopy

## What to expect for your surgery:

The surgery will most commonly be performed under sedation but in some cases your physician may recommend that it be performed under general anesthesia. The procedure usually lasts less than 30 minutes. You should expect to return home after the surgery but occasionally, you may require an overnight stay in the hospital.

The procedure involves using a fiber optic camera to examine the windpipe and vocal cords. Additionally, a laser is used to remove scar tissue in the airway that is obstructing breathing. Frequently, a balloon will also be used to further open the airway. During the balloon portion of the procedure, you may be asked to hold your breath for brief periods of time.

Please make sure not to eat or drink anything after midnight the night before unless you need a small sip of water for medications on the morning of the procedure.

### Contact Info:

**Maurits Boon, MD**

**Colin Huntley, MD**

Thomas Jefferson University  
Otolaryngology – Head and  
Neck Surgery

925 Chestnut Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Phone: 215-955-6760

Fax: 215-503-3736

# What to expect after your surgery:

Pain following the procedure is typically mild and may involve the nasal passages as well as the throat. Many patients do not require pain medication following the procedure. A prescription medication will be provided to control pain. For mild pain, it is acceptable to use acetaminophen. However, note that the pain prescription provided may contain acetaminophen and therefore, you should not use acetaminophen if you are also using the prescription pain medication.

A prescription for a steroid medication will also be provided on the day of your surgery. If you suffer from diabetes, this prescription may not be given.

You may be hoarse for a few days following the procedure. This will usually resolve without any need for further treatment.

You can expect to have a productive cough for several weeks following the procedure and some of the discharge that you bring up may be bloody.

There are no dietary restrictions following the procedure.

Most patients will experience significant improvement in breathing. The degree of improvement will be variable and due to some swelling in the airway may take several days to become apparent.

**Please call your physician if you experience any of the following: shortness of breath, increasing noisy breathing, inability to swallow, fever >101, or excessive pain not controlled by the pain medication provided.**

# Your First Postoperative Visit:

A postoperative visit should be scheduled around 1 week after the procedure. If one has not been previously scheduled, please call the office for an appointment.

At your first postoperative visit a fiber optic camera will be used to examine your airway. Additional follow up will be recommended and scheduled.

You may resume normal activity after this visit.

Because of the nature of airway scarring some patients will experience recurrence of symptoms of shortness of breath and noisy breathing. As a result, routine follow up is recommended and you are encouraged to call your physician if you have increasing shortness of breath, noisy breathing, or any reason to suspect recurrence.