

Berkeley Medical Center is pleased to announce the capability to perform Endobronchial Ultrasound (EBUS). EBUS is a minimally invasive but highly effective procedure used to diagnose lung cancer, infections and other diseases causing enlarged lymph nodes in the chest

EBUS allows the physician (a pulmonologist) to perform a technique known as transbronchial needle aspiration (TBNA) to obtain tissue or fluid samples from the lungs and surrounding lymph nodes without conventional surgery, known as mediastinoscopy. These samples can then be used to diagnose and stage lung cancer, detect infections and identify inflammatory diseases that affect the lung such as sarcoidosis and other cancers such as lymphoma.

Why is EBUS different?

During the conventional surgery, known as mediastinoscopy, a small incision is made in the neck just above or next to the sternum (breast bone). Next a thin scope known as a mediastinoscope is inserted through the opening to provide access to the lungs and surrounding tissue. Tissue or fluid is then collected via biopsy.

During EBUS a pulmonologist can perform needle aspiration on lymph nodes using a bronchoscope inserted through the mouth. A special bronchoscope fitted with an ultrasound processor is guided through the patient's trachea (windpipe) to obtain samples. No incisions are necessary

There are many benefits of EBUS.

- EBUS provides real time imaging of the airways, lung tissue, vessels and lymph nodes.
- These images are significantly improved which allow the physician to easily view difficult to reach areas and have better access to areas than conventional diagnostic surgery.
- More accurate and can provide more rapid on site evaluation if more samples are needed
- Patients recover quickly and can usually go home the same day

The EBUS procedure typically takes less than an hour depending on how many biopsies need to be taken. Patients may have a mild sore throat for a couple of days after the test, but this will soon disappear. Test results should be available within 48-72 hours.

Berkeley Medical Center is pleased to provide this service to the patients we serve in our region. Our pulmonologists have completed specialized training to bring this advanced procedure to the community.

For more information, email david.fillman@wvumedicine.org.

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