

Microlaryngoscopy and bronchoscopy (MLB) in children

The airway is the 'tube' from the mouth to the lungs and includes the throat (pharynx), the voicebox (larynx), and the windpipe (trachea), which branches into the lungs.

When your child breathes in, air travels down the airway to the lungs, where oxygen passes into the bloodstream. Blood then transports the oxygen throughout the body. In children, the airway is often very narrow, so any swelling or narrowing can cause noisy breathing or difficulty breathing.

Your child may need an MLB if they have

- difficulty breathing
- find it hard to breathe
- noisy breathing
- blue spells (where they hold their breath and turn blue)

An MLB procedure

An MLB is a procedure that allows us to look down the airway all the way to the main bronchi (the passageways that connect your windpipe to your lungs).

We give your child a general anaesthetic which is medicine that makes your child sleep so they don't feel any pain. We will insert a rigid telescope through the mouth to closely examine the airway.

We can take photos and videos during the procedure, and can even print out a copy of them for you to take home.

Usually your child will stay in hospital overnight but, sometimes they may be able to go home the same day.

If we find an abnormality, we may be able to perform a small endoscopic procedure (with the telescope via the mouth) at the same time to treat it, depending on the circumstances.

Risks of having an MLB

There is more information in our leaflet called **Your child's general anaesthetic** which you can find on our website or ask a member of staff for a copy.

Sore throat. Your child may have a sore throat afterwards. This is temporary and painkillers such as Calpol® will help.

Damage to lips, teeth, jaw. There is a small risk of damage to the teeth. Please let us know if your child has any wobbly teeth.

Airway swelling/difficulty breathing.

There is a small risk that the lining of the airway will swell in response to being disturbed, resulting in difficulty breathing. If we think this is likely to happen, we may give a few doses of steroids after the operation and keep your child in overnight for monitoring.

Bleeding. If we do any treatments at the same time as the MLB, there is a small risk of bleeding. We are careful to stop any bleeding during the procedure.

Need for further procedure. As this procedure is mainly to find causes, your child may need another procedure afterwards to fix the problems we find.

Alternative treatments

There are 2 types of procedures using flexible telescopes:

Flexible nasoendoscopy (FNE). We use a thin, bendy camera inserted through the nose to look at the upper parts of the airway. The advantages are that it can be done in clinic with the child. It can give us more information of what happens when the child speaks or breathes.

However, an FNE can only see as far as the vocal cords and will miss any problems that are affecting the airway farther down. Also we are not able to use other instruments at the same time to treat any problems found. It can be distressing to some children who do not like having a thin camera in the nose.

Flexible bronchoscopy uses a longer camera to look down into the smaller airways (farther than an MLB allows). It is usually carried out by respiratory or intensive care doctors while your child is asleep.

Some simple procedures, such as suctioning mucus or taking biopsies, can be performed during a flexible bronchoscopy, the range of procedures is more limited than with an MLB.

Evelina London Medicines Helpline

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's medicines, please speak to the staff caring for them or contact our helpline, **phone** 020 7188 3003, Monday to Friday, 10am to 5pm

Your comments and concerns

For advice, support or to raise a concern, contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS), **phone** 020 7188 8801 **email** gstt.pals-gstt@nhs.net To make a complaint contact the resolution department **phone** 020 7188 3514 **email** gstt.complaints-publicfolder@nhs.net

Language and accessible support services

If you need an interpreter or information about your care in a different language or format, please contact the service your child is seeing.

NHS 111

This service offers medical help and advice from fully trained advisers supported by experienced nurses and paramedics. Available over the phone 24 hours a day, **phone** 111 **web** www.111.nhs.uk

NHS website

This website gives information and guidance on all aspects of health and healthcare, to help you take control of your health and wellbeing, **web** www.nhs.uk

Get involved and have your say: become a member of the Trust

Members of Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust contribute to the organisation on a voluntary basis. We count on them for feedback, local knowledge and support. Membership is free and it is up to you how much you get involved. To find out more, please get in touch, **phone** 0800 731 0319

email gstt.members@nhs.net **web**
www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk/membership



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