Dear patient

Your doctors believe that considering your situation and tests performed so far a bronchoscopic examination is warranted.

Bronchoscopy means visualization of the larynx and the central tracheobronchial tree (windpipe) using a flexible fiberoptic scope with a diameter of about 5 mm (a quarter of an inch). The lung periphery can also be examined using fluoroscopy. During the examination samples of tissue and secretions are taken for further analyses, e.g. microscopy. Frequently, a diagnosis may be established using these tests but it may take several days for all the results to become available.

The morning of the examination you should arrive with an empty stomach. Prior to the actual Bronchoscopy you will receive an injection of morphine and atropine. Morphine is used for its antitussive and calming effect. Atropine is used to reduce bronchial secretions during the examination.

Local anesthesia is achieved using Novesin, an anesthetic agent. First, you will be given an inhalation treatment with Novesin followed by spraying the mucous membranes of your nose and throat. Bronchoscopy may be uncomfortable, but it is not a painful procedure. You may, however, experience coughing. Oxygen will be given through a nasal cannula as a preventive measure. After the Bronchoscopy you will be observed for another 2 hours (in case of lung biopsies 4 hours). During that time you are not allowed to eat or drink. The effect of the local anesthesia will usually wear off after 2 hours and swallowing will again be normal.

For decades, Bronchoscopy under local anesthesia has been established as a useful procedure. Complications are rare. When taking samples, bleeding may be encountered and rarely, a pneumothorax (air collection around your lung that may require drainage using a tube inserted into your chest) may result. Shortness of breath may result from obstructing your airways. A transient fever after Bronchoscopy is occasionally seen. If you have any intolerance or allergies against any of the medications used, please make us aware prior to the procedure.

Bronchoscopy is but one possible diagnostic tool. However, it may reveal pertinent information about your health.

This pamphlet should supply you with all the important information regarding Bronchoscopy. Your physician will again discuss the procedure with you. He will address your concerns and answer all your remaining questions.
**Patient’s consent**

I have read the pamphlet and all my questions and concerns have been addressed by Dr. ________________

I understand risks, benefits and alternatives to the bronchoscopic examination. I wish to proceed.

Place, Date                  Patient                   Physician

_________________________   ___________________________   ___________________________