

Patient Procedures/Treatment

Bronchoscopy: is a medical procedure which allows a long thin tube to be passed into the airway – this is called the bronchoscope. And allows the structures in the airway such as the larynx, vocal chords and trachea to be visualised.

ECG (Electrocardiograph): this is a recording of the electrical activity of the heart. The rate and regularity of the heartbeat can be examined. It also enables heart muscle problems such as ischaemia to be detected.

ECHO (Echocardiography): this uses sound waves to create an image of the beating heart and is essentially an ultrasound of the heart. This allows doctors to view the hearts action in real time which enables diagnosis of a number of serious problems.

Extubation: this is the removal of the endotracheal tube, discontinuation of mechanical ventilation.

Intubation: the insertion of an endotracheal tube into the trachea via the mouth.

Suctioning an artificial airway: this involves passing a long thin tube (suction catheter) through the airway to remove secretions that have collected. This ensures the patient has a clear airway for their breathing and that the tube doesn't occlude.

Common Blood Tests: performed on admission and at least daily.

- Full Blood Count (FBC) – monitors Hb, platelet count and white blood cell count
- Urea and Electrolytes (U&E) – monitors levels of urea, creatinine and salts such as sodium and potassium.
- Liver Function Tests (LFT)
- Coagulation Screen – monitors levels of clotting factors in the blood
- CRP – C reactive Protein, an inflammatory marker which can be used to assess infection
- Arterial Blood Gas (ABG) – monitors blood oxygen saturation and enables ventilation changes to be made.