

What happens after the surgery?

- It is possible that you will stay one night in the high dependency unit or ICU before being transferred to a regular ward. Your condition will be monitored by carefully recording your heartbeat and the amount of oxygen in your system.
- There may be one or two small flexible tubes from your chest to drain air and fluid out. These tubes are usually removed several days after the operation.
- You will be given pain medicines to keep you comfortable.
- You will be taught breathing exercises to improve the healing of your body. Doing deep breathing and coughing exercises after lung surgery is very important to help you recover.
- You doctor will review the results of your surgery, tell you what to expect during your recovery, and discuss any further treatments that you may need for your condition.

When should I call the doctor?

Call your doctor if you have any of these symptoms:

- Wound discharge or very red incision.
- Sudden, severe shortness of breath.
- Sudden, sharp chest pain.
- Fever over 38 degree Centigrade.
- Rapid heartbeat or "fluttering" in your chest.

Contact information

Department of Cardiac, Thoracic and Vascular Surgery
Main Building 1, Level 2

Opening Hours: 8.30 am - 6.00 pm (Mon - Fri)
(except on Public Holidays)

For appointments, please contact

Tel: (65) 6772 2002
Email: appointment@nuh.com.sg

For International Patients And Visitors

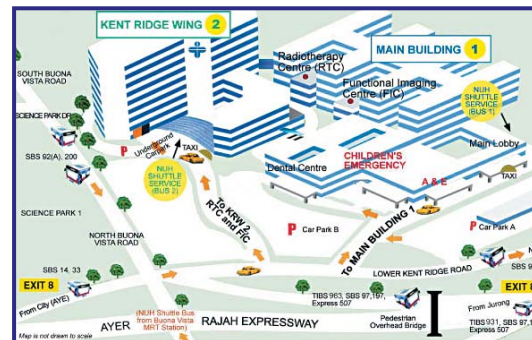
The International Patients Liaison Centre (IPLC) is a one-stop service centre to support all the medical needs of our foreign patients

Tel : (65) 6779 2777 (24-Hours Helpline)
Fax : (65) 6777 8065
Website : www.nuh.com.sg/ipic.html

National University Hospital

5 Lower Kent Ridge Road, Singapore 119074
Tel: 6779 5555 Fax: 6779 5678 Website: www.nuh.com.sg

Location



Free Shuttle Bus Service

Free Shuttle Bus Service from Dover MRT Station to NUH

Operation hours : 8.00 am – 8.30 pm (Mondays – Fridays)
8.00 am – 2.00 pm (Saturdays)
Not available on Sundays and Public Holidays

Dover/NUH passenger pickup/ drop off point : 1. Dover MRT Station (opposite Singapore Polytechnic)
2. Main Building, Lobby Entrance (near roundabout)
3. Kent Ridge Wing, Level 3, South Entrance

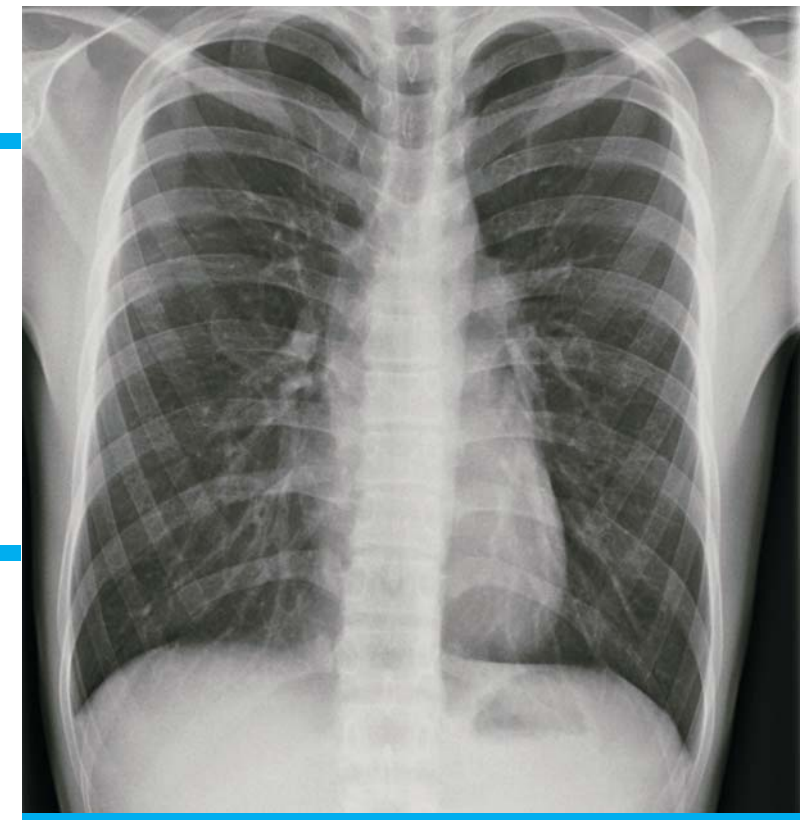
For more information on Shuttle Bus schedule, log on to www.nuh.com.sg

Information in this brochure is given as a guide only and does not replace medical advice from your doctor. Please seek the advice of your doctor if you have any questions related to the surgery, your health or medical condition.

Information is correct at time of printing (Aug 2009) and subject to revision without notice.



Lung Surgery



A member of NUHS

What is Lung Surgery?

Surgery of the lungs is performed to treat lung masses, collapsed lung or fluid around the lungs. There are two methods to do this.

Video-Assisted Thoracic Surgery (VATS) uses several very small incisions (each about 1cm or less). The surgeon places a small tube containing a camera through one of the incisions and can view the lungs on video monitor. This procedure is less invasive than traditional lung surgery that requires a thoracotomy incision.

Thoracotomy uses a larger incision in the chest wall. This opening allows the surgeon to see the lungs directly.

In our Thoracic Surgery unit at the National University Hospital in Singapore, greater than 95% of our patients are treated with VATS without the need for thoracotomy.

What are the conditions that require lung surgery?

• A Lung Mass

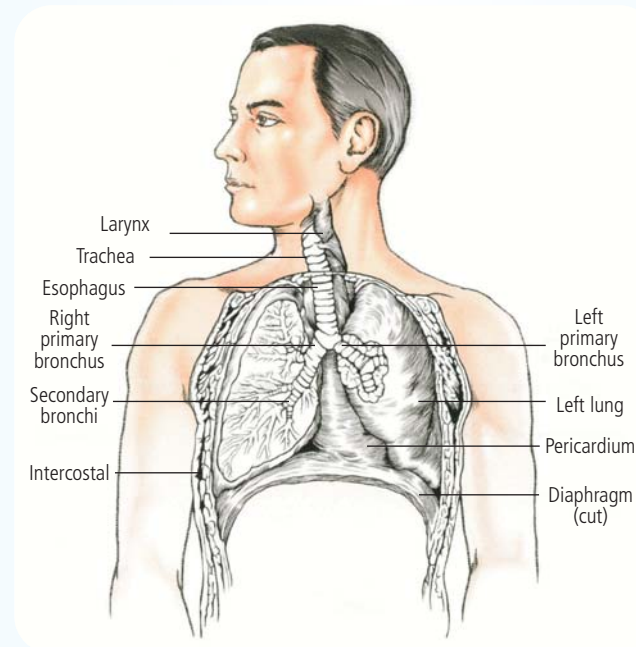
If a mass has been found in the lungs, your surgeon can perform a biopsy to remove a small amount of tissue from the lungs. This will allow your surgeon to determine whether the growth is benign or malignant. In addition, the exact location and size of the mass can be measured, and other areas can be examined to check whether the mass has spread. If the mass needs to be removed, its size, location, and spread determine how much of the surrounding lung also needs to be removed.

• A Collapsed Lung

If a portion of the lung wall is thin or ruptured, air may leak into the pleural cavity. The pleural cavity is the space between the chest wall and the lungs. When air collects in the pleural space, the lung may collapse. This condition is known as a collapsed lung or pneumothorax. Tubes placed during surgery can drain air from the pleural space to help the lung re-expand. During surgery, a procedure is performed to help the lung stick to the chest wall. The surface of the lung can also be repaired so that it will not collapse again.

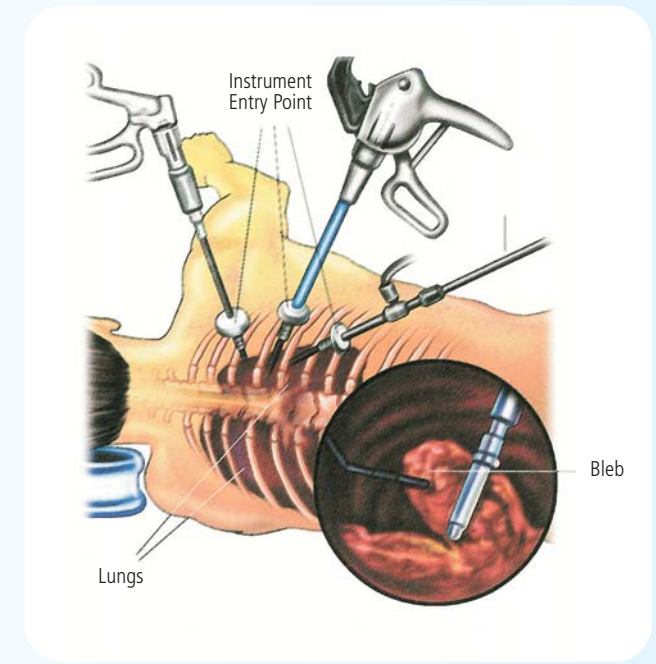
• Fluid Around the Lungs

Fluid may collect in the area around the lungs. One common cause of this fluid is lung infection, which may occur following certain types of surgeries or illnesses such as pneumonia. During surgery, tubes can be placed into the pleural space to drain the fluid out and help the lungs to heal.



How do I prepare for lung surgery?

- Our surgeons will provide you with instructions on how to get ready for the procedure and explain what the surgery can do to help your condition.
- Stop smoking if you are currently a smoker.
- Have blood tests or other routine tests that your doctor recommends.
- Tell your doctor about any medications you are taking and ask if you should stop taking them.
- On the night before your surgery, do not eat or drink anything after midnight.



What are the risks associated with lung surgery?

- There are always some risks when you have general anaesthesia. Discuss these risks with your doctor.
- There is a risk of bleeding from this operation.
- You may experience some pain or numbness at the incision site.
- There are risks of lung infection or air leaks through the surface of the lung.
- Clots may develop in the blood vessels of the legs and the lungs.