

What happens after the surgery?

- 1 It is possible that you will stay one night in the high dependency unit (HDU) or intensive care unit (ICU) before transferring back to the general ward. The nurses and doctors will carefully monitor your condition to ensure you are recovering well.
- 2 There may be a small flexible drainage tube to remove air and fluid. This drain will usually be removed within a few days after the operation before your discharge from the hospital.
- 3 You will be kept comfortable and pain medicine will be given when needed.
- 4 You will walk and take deep breaths to improve the healing of your body. Breathing and coughing exercises after surgery will help your lung recovers faster.
- 5 Your doctor will review the results after your surgery to discuss further care.

When should I call the doctor?

Call your doctor if you have any of these symptoms:

- Fever over 38 degree Celsius
- Wound redness, swelling, pain or discharge
- Increasing shortness of breath
- Increasing chest discomfort
- Rapid heartbeat or "fluttering" in your chest

Location



- A** Linkway @ Level 1
Via MRT station
(Exit A)
- B** Linkway @ Level 1
- C** Linkway @ Level 4
- Drop off only
- Bus Stop
- P Carpark
- Taxi Stand / Drop off
- MRT Kent Ridge MRT Station @ Level 1



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

Contact Information

National University Heart Centre, Singapore

1 Main Building of NUH
Opening Hours: 8.30 am - 5.30 pm (Monday - Friday)
Closed on Weekend & Public Holidays
Website: www.nuhcs.com.sg

Getting to NUH

Circle Line Kent Ridge MRT Station

Commuters can transit at the Buona Vista MRT Interchange and alight two stops after at the Kent Ridge Station. The station is served by three exit-entry points.

Exit A: Right at the doorstep of National University Heart Centre, Singapore.

Exit B: Along South Buona Vista Road, which links to Singapore Science Park 1.

Exit C: Leads to NUH Medical Centre.

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 (Apr 2017) and subject to revision without notice. Copyright© is held by the publisher. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in parts without permission is strictly not allowed.



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Make a donation and help us continue the fight for every heartbeat!

To make an online donation, log on to <http://www.nuhcs.com.sg/make-a-gift.html>

National University Heart Centre, Singapore

A member of the NUHS



Lung Surgery

View patient education videos on **NUHCS YouTube** page!

STEP 01



STEP 02



Download a FREE QR Reader on your smartphone and scan the QR code.

The QR code will decode instantly. You'll be brought to www.youtube.com/user/NUHCS



Scan the QR code

What is lung surgery?

Surgery of the lungs is performed to treat various diseases within the chest. These include lung masses including cancer, collapsed lung (pneumothorax) or fluid around the lungs (effusion or empyema).

Uniportal Video-Assisted Thoracic Surgery (UVATS) uses one small cut to perform the surgery, whereas multi-portal VATS uses a few small incisions. UVATS is currently the least invasive technique for lung surgery. The surgeon places a small telescope through the small "keyhole" incision to view the lung on the video monitor, and the operation is performed using small instruments. Thoracotomy or open surgery uses a longer incision on the side of the chest. This opening allows the surgeon to see the lungs directly. Thoracotomy is performed when UVATS or VATS is found to be unsuitable for the disease condition.

In our Lung Surgery Centre at the National University Heart Centre, Singapore (NUHCS), the majority of our lung surgeries are performed by our surgeons through one small cut using UVATS.

WATCH NOW



We provide our patients with a dynamic audio-visual explanation of complicated medical information in a condensed and user-friendly manner.

Catch our video on Lung Surgery on

www.youtube.com/user/NUHCS

What are the conditions that require lung surgery?

Lung Mass

A lung mass may represent a lung cancer. Depending on its appearance on the chest x-ray and computed tomography scan, your surgeon may recommend either biopsy or surgical resection. The extent of the surgery is determined by the size and location of the mass. A common procedure for lung cancer is to remove a lobe of lung, a procedure known as lobectomy. It is a standard operating procedure to take out the neighboring lymph nodes in the chest during the lung cancer operation in order to ascertain whether there is spread of the cancer beyond the lung itself.

Collapsed Lung (Pneumothorax)

If an area of the lung wall is thin and abnormal (blebs or bullae), air may leak into the pleural cavity and collapse the lung. The pleural cavity is the space between the lung and the rib cage. When air collects into this space and the lung starts to collapse, the patient may experience chest pain and breathlessness. This condition is known as pneumothorax.

Drainage tubes can be placed to suction the air out of the pleural space to re-expand the lung. During surgery, the surface of the lung can be repaired to prevent it from collapsing again. At the same time, a procedure will be done to help the lung stick together with the chest wall to prevent it from collapsing again.

Fluid Around the Lungs (Effusion or Empyema)

Fluid may build up in the pleural space around the lung. One common underlying cause of this fluid collection is chest infection, which may occur as a result of illnesses such as pneumonia. During surgery, the inside of the pleural cavity is cleaned thoroughly to remove all the fluid and infected material from the chest and help the lungs to heal.

How do I prepare for lung surgery?

- 1 Our surgeons will provide you with clear and detailed instructions on how to get ready for surgery and explain how the surgery will help to improve your condition.
- 2 Stop smoking if you are currently a smoker.
- 3 Do blood test, lung function test and other routine tests that your doctor will recommend.
- 4 Tell your doctor about any medications you are currently taking and ask if you should stop them before surgery.
- 5 On the night before surgery, do not eat or drink anything after midnight.

What are the risks associated with lung surgery?

There are some potential risks associated with lung surgery. Your doctor will discuss these with you before the operation. Your safety is our prime consideration. Your operation will be performed with great care and every effort will be made to reduce these risks to the minimum:

- 1 General anaesthesia
- 2 Infection or bleeding
- 3 Air leak
- 4 Wound discomfort or numb sensation