

Care at home

- Take the bandage off 24 hours after the procedure.
- After you remove the bandage, you can shower.

Activity at home

- Resume taking your regular medicines unless your doctor tells you otherwise.
- Drink plenty of fluids.
- Return to your regular diet.
- For at least 2 days:
 - ✗ Do not bathe or soak in a tub.
 - ✗ Do not do any heavy exercise, chores or lifting.
- You should be able to return to your usual activities in 2 to 3 days.

When to get help

Call your doctor right away if you notice:

- flu-like symptoms such as fever above 38.5°C (101°F), aches, and chills
- pain that does not go away after taking pain medicine
- swelling or fluid leaks out where the needle went in

Go to the nearest Emergency Department or call 9-1-1 if any of the following happen:

- shortness of breath
- chest pain
- dizziness or fainting

Follow-up instructions

The interventional radiologist arranges for a follow-up CT scan and appointment several weeks after the procedure.

Call the doctor who sent you for this procedure to schedule a follow-up appointment.

Locations

Royal Columbian Hospital 604-520-4648
Medical Imaging, Columbia Tower
330 E. Columbia Street, New Westminster

Vancouver General Hospital 604-875-4111
Angio Department, Jim Pattison Pavilion Ext 68612
Station 4, Ground Floor, 855 West 12th Avenue, Vancouver

HealthLinkBC 8-1-1

Call any time you have any questions or concerns. HealthLinkBC is open 24 hours.

Available in 130 languages. For an interpreter, say your language in English. Wait until an interpreter comes on the phone.

www.fraserhealth.ca ♦ www.vch.ca

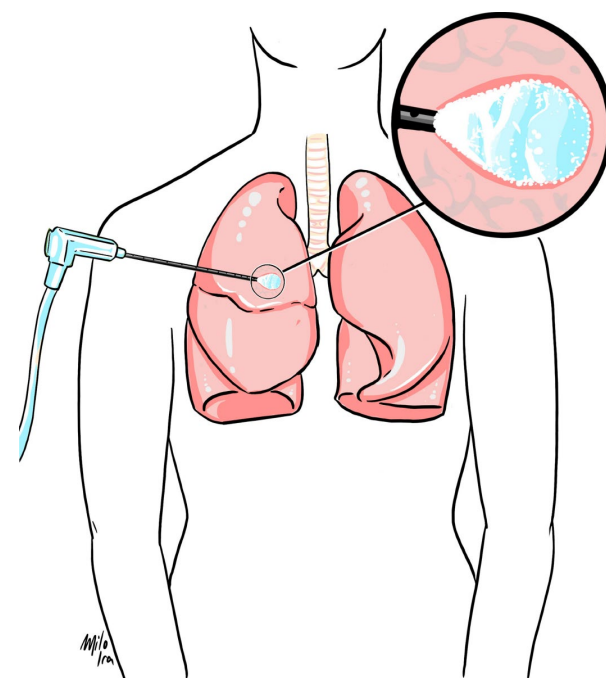
This information does not replace the advice given to you by your healthcare provider.

October 2021 FH Catalogue # 267150
VCH Catalogue # FE.246.C792



Cryoablation for Lung Tumours

Medical Imaging



What is cryoablation?

Cryoablation (say *cry-oh-ah-blai-shun*) is a way to treat growths and tumours, which are benign or cancerous. It uses extreme cold to freeze and shrink, or kill the tumour.

In this case, this is a way to treat tumours in the lung.

Who does this procedure?

An interventional radiologist does the procedure. This doctor specializes in image-guided procedures and uses CT scanning for this procedure.

If you have any questions about the procedure, you can ask the radiologist before your procedure.

Can I bring a relative/friend?

Yes, a relative or friend can stay with you before and after the procedure. However, for safety, they cannot be in the room with you during the procedure.

You must arrange for a responsible adult to drive or escort you home after this procedure.

What happens before the procedure?

Our Medical Imaging Department or your doctor's office contacts you with specific instructions on how to prepare for this procedure.

What happens during the procedure?

We start an intravenous in one of your arms. This allows us to give you medicines to help you relax (sedation) or to treat your pain. Most people only need sedation. In some cases, an anesthesiologist gives medicine to help the person sleep through the procedure (general anesthetic).

The radiologist does the following:

- Cleans the area with antiseptic.
- Injects numbing medicine to freeze the skin (similar to dental freezing).
- Makes a small incision in the skin (the insertion site).
- Inserts a thin, wand-like needle called a cryoprobe through the insertion site.
- Directs the cryoprobe to the lung tumour (more than one probe could be used).
- Pumps a freezing gas into the cryoprobe to freeze the tissue cells.
- Allows time for the tissue cells to thaw.
- Repeats ablations depending on the size and location of the tumour.
- Removes the cryoprobe(s).
- Puts pressure on the insertion site to help stop any bleeding.
- Puts a small bandage on the insertion site.

Does it hurt?

You might feel some pain or discomfort during the procedure. We give medicine for numbing, pain and sedation to help you.

How long will it take?

Every person and situation is different. The procedure usually takes 1 to 3 hours.

What happens after the procedure?

We move you to our recovery area. You stay here 4 to 6 hours, or overnight. We discuss this with you before the procedure.

Are there any risks or complications?

There is a chance of infection any time the skin is pierced or cut.

Unexpected complications can include:

- an air leak into the chest cavity (called a pneumothorax)
- bleeding at the insertion site
- coughing up blood (called hemoptysis)
- flu like symptoms for 1 to 5 days (called Post-Ablation Syndrome)
- damage to tissues around the tumour
- skin or nerve damage, frostbite
- fluid around the lungs (called a pleural effusion)
- reactions to medicines given
- life threatening complications are possible, but rarely occur

A pneumothorax or pleural effusion might need to be drained.