

# Fiberoptic Endoscopy Exam

*This procedure is a standard part of your general otolaryngology (ear, nose and throat) exam.*

## Why do I need this exam?

A fiberoptic endoscopy examination is performed in order to evaluate areas of the head and neck that are not otherwise able to be visualized. While CT, MRI and X-Ray images provide internal body information, they provide only single snapshots and do not give your physician information about how things move or work in real time. An endoscopic examination allows the physician to determine the causes of your chief complaint.

## What does the exam involve?

Fiberoptic endoscopy uses a lighted optical instrument to see inside the body. It allows the physician to get a clear look to confirm normal structures or look at any abnormalities of the nasal structures, upper and lower throat, base of the tongue and vocal cords. Your surgeon can perform this exam right in our office.

## What instruments are used?

There are two types of scopes used to perform this exam:

**Rigid Endoscope**—a solid metal tube (pictured below) is used to illuminate and magnify the structures of the nose and sinuses.



**Flexible Nasopharyngeal Laryngoscope**—this long, flexible, fiberoptic scope (pictured on right) can bend and maneuver to evaluate the structures of the nose, oropharynx (throat) and larynx (voice box.)



## What else should I expect?

Your physician will review your past medical history and assess your primary complaint. After reviewing your information, they will determine if an endoscope is needed as part of your exam. Both scopes are inserted through the nose. Prior to examination, the nose is decongested and anesthetized with a nasal spray. The complete exam will take less than one minute.



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