

Triple Scope

Center for Pediatric Aerodigestive Disorders and Airway Surgery

What is it?



A triple endoscopy, also known as a triple scope, is a comprehensive evaluation of your child's aerodigestive system which includes, their airway, lungs, and esophagus, under general anesthesia. It is a critical part of evaluating children with breathing and feeding problems.

Why do it?



It allows the physicians to view the inside of your child's body using multiple cameras. It's performed as a coordinated procedure under a single anesthetic by your child's Otolaryngologist (ENT), Pulmonologist and Gastroenterologist (GI) to improve patient care, outcomes and cost measures. Since it is one anesthesia event, our team can provide a more comprehensive evaluation and avoid your child taking multiple trips to the operating room.

How long?



The triple scope typically takes approximately one hour to complete followed by a short stay in the recovery room and is generally planned as an outpatient procedure. Most children can return to their normal daily activities the following day.

The Three Scopes

First Scope

Direct Laryngoscopy and Bronchoscopy - Uses a rigid endoscope (camera) to assess the structures and overall function of your child's voice box and windpipe by the ENT physician. Pictures and videos are taken during the procedure and reviewed with you once it is complete.

Third Scope

Esophagogastroduodenoscopy (EGD) - Uses a flexible endoscope (camera) to visualize the structure and health of your child's food pipe, stomach, and small intestine by the GI physician. Gentle air pressure is used to inflate the upper digestive tract for adequate visualization. Pictures and biopsies are taken during this procedure with completed results available within 7-10 days.

Second Scope

Flexible Bronchoscopy with Bronchoalveolar Lavage - Uses a flexible endoscope (camera) to assess the structure and health of your child's lower airways and lungs by the Pulmonary physician. Pictures and videos are taken during the procedure. A lavage (rinsing) of the lower airways is performed with a saline solution. Specimens are then collected to assess the types of cells obtained. If there is any detected abnormal bacteria or fungal growth, further treatment may be required. The completed results are available within 7-10 days.

Potential Side Effects

Typically minor, temporary, and self-resolving but may include a sore throat, cough, fever, abdominal pain, belching or brief changes in stool color.