

**Bronchial Provocation**

Bronchial Provocation Tests are useful in the diagnosis of asthma where spirometry in normal. They are also useful to assess the airways for evidence of active asthma for employment screening such as the defence or police forces. Asthma is a condition where the airways are very sensitive and narrowing can occur when exposed to certain triggers, e.g. grasses, exercise, pollens. The Bronchial Provocation Test mimics the process which occurs when you are exposed to these triggers. This is done by inhaling incremental amounts of a powder called Mannitol. This test takes approximately 45 minutes.

The patients are required to breathe in the substance though an inhaler. After each dose the patient is required to perform spirometry. Lung function will be assessed after each of these doses to determine if any changes have occurred. Prior to the test you will be given information on medications which may need to be withheld and avoidance of certain food and drinks, exercise and smoking.

This information is intended as a guide only. Information specific to you as an individual should be sought from your family doctor or respiratory specialist.