

Mayo Clinic Minute

How robotic-assisted bronchoscopy helps patients

Video	Audio
Vivien Williams	Dr. Karen Swanson is using a robotic-assisted bronchoscope ...
Karen Swanson, D.O. Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine Mayo Clinic	"We're actually driving the scope with a gaming controller."
Vivien Williams	... to see inside this patient's lungs and biopsy a worrisome nodule.
Karen Swanson, D.O.	"Biopsying those nodules is important to get a diagnosis."
Vivien Williams	Robotic scopes are smaller and more flexible than standard scopes. They also provide better vision.
Karen Swanson, D.O.	"Allowing us to see things in the distal airways that we honestly have never seen before because the scope has never been able to get there before with good optics."
Vivien Williams	The technology helps doctors be more precise, and it allows them to get bigger tissue samples.
Karen Swanson, D.O.	"We need to get more and more tissue to assess molecular characteristics of a particular tumor type."
Vivien Williams	Knowing tumor type allows them to tailor treatment for each individual patient. Robotic-assisted bronchoscopy may also lead to new, less-invasive ways to treat lung tumors.
Karen Swanson, D.O.	"That's the holy grail, if you will."

Vivien Williams	Using robotic technology to benefit patients.
	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm Vivien Williams.