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Thoracic Anesthesia

FIBEROPTIC BRONCHOSCOPY The fiberoptic bronchoscope is especially valuable for evaluation of peripheral lung densities, in elucidating hemorrhage of obscure cause, and in examination of patients on respirators or those who have cervical or cranial disease. The rigid bronchoscope retains certain advantages: it is preferred for removal of a foreign body or broncholith, for pediatric bronchoscopy, for aspiration of massive hemorrhage or retained thick secretions, and

for use in patients with narrowed tracheal diameters. The fiberoptic scope permits visualization of the larynx and nasopharynx. (*Krook CJ: Fiberoptic bronchoscopy, Carle Selected Papers* 28: 26, 1975, Urbana, Ill.)
ABSTRACTER'S COMMENT: The fiberoptic bronchoscope can serve as a guide over which an endotracheal tube can be passed in a patient whose anatomy prevents visualization of the larynx with a conventional laryngoscope.