The diagnostic work-up of diffuse parenchymal lung disease needs identification of the morphological aspects in a significant minority of patients. Surgical lung biopsy is considered the most efficient method to reach the goal so far. However, it is associated with a significant incidence of morbidity and mortality, mainly when the definitive diagnosis will result to be Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis (IPF) or in elderly patients.

Transbronchial lung biopsy with regular forceps is frequently used in clinical practice. However, in this context, it is considered less useful because the fragments so obtained are tiny and with crush artifacts resulting in a very low sensitivity and specificity.

Transbronchial cryobiopsy is an innovative and recently adopted method to obtain larger and well-preserved lung tissue specimens.

In this course, the technical aspects of transbronchial cryobiopsy, its diagnostic role in diffuse parenchymal lung disease as documented by recent studies or by experience accumulated in specialized centers, and complications will be presented and discussed.