Ultrasound Guided Biopsy

Radiology Service

Information for patients

What is a Biopsy?
A biopsy is performed to examine a questionable area of tissue or organ. The sample of tissue or organ is removed and examined in a laboratory to provide a diagnosis.

What to Bring:
Bring any relevant imaging scans (film packet or a CD containing X rays, CT scans, ultrasound or MRIs etc.).

Preparation:
You may be required to have a blood test prior to your biopsy to check your blood clotting levels.

Arrange for someone to take you home from your procedure.

Eating/drinking:
You will be required not to eat or drink for 4 hours prior to your procedure.

Medications:
Tell staff at the time of booking if you are taking any:
- Blood thinning medications (e.g. Warfarin, Xarelto, Rivaroxaban, Pradaxa, Apixaban, Eliquis),
- Antiplatelet medications (e.g. Clopidogrel, Plavix, Aspirin)

You will be informed if you need to stop taking these medications before your procedure.

Continue taking other medications as prescribed, unless directed otherwise by medical or nursing staff prior to your procedure.

Please bring a list of all your medications with you to your appointment.

Procedure:
On arrival to the hospital a nurse will discuss with you your medical history and may insert a small plastic tube (cannula) into a vein in your hand or arm.

You will be lying on a bed and the doctor will locate the area to be biopsied using the ultrasound and determine the safest approach to collect a sample. The doctor will explain the procedure and discuss with you the potential risks and you will be asked to sign a consent form. Your heart rate and blood pressure will be monitored during the procedure by nursing staff.

Your skin will be cleaned with antiseptic wash, and local anaesthetic will be used to numb a small section of your skin.
Ultrasound Guided Biopsy
Radiology Service

A small incision will be made and a biopsy needle will be inserted through the numb patch of skin into the area to be biopsied. The samples will be taken and sent to pathology for examination.

Pressure will be applied to the puncture site for a short time and then the area will be covered with a small waterproof dressing.

Post Procedure Care:
Bruising and tenderness at the procedure site is to be expected and will subside after a few days. At home you should take simple pain relief such as paracetamol as required.

If you have had a Liver or Renal biopsy, you will return to the day procedure unit for monitoring and will be required to lie flat for 4 hours before being discharged home.

Discharge:
Generally you will be able to go home immediately after your procedure if you have no other medical conditions or concerns that require further treatment.

If you have had a Liver or Renal biopsy you will be discharged home after your recovery period.

You will be provided with an information sheet regarding discharge instructions upon completion of your procedure.

Results:
The results together with the procedure report will be sent to your referring doctor. Return to your doctor to discuss examination results.

Radiation Risk
Most medical imaging tests, except MRI and ultrasound, involve exposure to radiation from X-rays. Your doctor considers that the benefits of the examination you require to be greater than the small risk posed by the radiation exposure.

Contact information
Ph: (03) 9076 5789
Email: radiologybookings@alfred.org.au

Radiology – the Alfred
55 Commercial Road, Melbourne VIC 3004
T 03 9076 2000
alfredhealth.org.au

References
Inside Radiology: www.insideradiology.com.au
The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists®

If you would like to provide feedback or request this information in an alternative format, contact us at patient.information@alfred.org.au