

Image Guided Biopsy

Your doctor has asked for an image guided biopsy to be performed. We have designed this brochure to help you prepare for this procedure. An image guided biopsy is a procedure where samples of tissue are obtained through a needle inserted under some form of imaging guidance. This can include x-ray, ultrasound, CT and occasionally MRI. The tissue obtained is sent to a specialist Pathologist to be analysed.

Preparation

- You will be given instructions by our booking staff regarding the time of your appointment and any necessary preparation.
- You will usually require admission to day surgery.
- Please bring any previous x-rays and ultrasound, CT or MRI scans if they were not performed within our clinic.
- You need to notify us and your referring doctor if you are on blood thinning medications or injections (eg aspirin, warfarin, coumadin, Plavix or Clexane etc.) or if you are taking fish oil or krill oil as these also increase the risk of bleeding. These medications may need to be stopped for several days prior to your procedure.
- You need to fast for 4 hours prior to the procedure. You may take your normal medication with a sip of water.
- Please shower on the morning of your procedure before coming to the hospital.

Procedure

- You will be changed into a gown and taken into the appropriate room in the radiology department. A specialist Radiologist performs the procedure assisted by nursing and technical staff.
- Initial scans will localise the area to be biopsied.

- The skin over the area will be cleaned with an antiseptic solution and numbed with local anaesthetic for your comfort. You may be given intravenous sedation to help make you calm and relaxed during the procedure.
- The Radiologist will insert a needle into the area to be biopsied using one of the imaging techniques to confirm proper needle placement. Several samples of tissue will be taken. The needle is then removed and pressure may be applied. A dressing will be applied once any initial bleeding has stopped. Some local bruising is to be expected.

Post procedure

- You may need to be monitored for up to 2 hours depending on the type of biopsy performed. You may also need an x-ray to assess for any complications. The Radiologist will discuss this with you.
- You will need to have someone drive you home upon your discharge and you should rest for the remainder of the day. You should avoid any strenuous activity for at least 24 hours after the procedure.
- The dressing can be removed the day after the procedure.
- A simple pain killer such as paracetamol should be sufficient if there is any discomfort once the local anaesthetic wears off.
- The samples of tissue will be sent to a specialist Pathologist for analysis and the results of the biopsy will be sent to your referring doctor who will discuss them with you.

If you experience bleeding or excessive bruising/swelling, redness or other evidence of infection please contact our clinic nurses between 8.00am and 6.00pm. Outside these hours please contact your local emergency centre or referring doctor.