

Lung Biopsy

Your doctor has asked for a lung biopsy to be performed. We have designed this brochure to help you prepare for this procedure. A lung biopsy is a procedure where samples of lung tissue are obtained through a needle inserted under CT or occasionally ultrasound guidance. 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.
- Please arrange a driver to take you home.
- 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.
- Be prepared for a 4hr stay in the department.

Procedure

- You will be changed into a gown and taken into either the CT or ultrasound 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 the doctor will numb the skin 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 lung and several samples of tissue will be taken. The needle is then removed and a dressing applied.

Post procedure

- You will need to rest for 4 hours after the procedure to minimise the risk of bleeding. During this time your vital signs will be monitored and the dressing checked by the nursing staff.
- You will have a chest x-ray 3-4 hours after the procedure to assess for any complications such as a punctured lung. If there are complications you may need to be admitted to hospital.
- You will need to have someone drive you home upon your discharge from either the imaging department or day surgery. You should rest for the remainder of the day and you should avoid any strenuous activity for at least 5 days 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 pathology provider 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.