

Information for patients

CT Guided Biopsy



Imaging

CT guided biopsy

This leaflet tells you about a CT guided biopsy procedure. It explains what is involved and the possible risks. We hope you find the information useful, but if you have any concerns please discuss them with the doctor before you sign the consent form.

What is a CT guided biopsy?

A biopsy is a test where a needle is passed through the skin to take a small sample of bone, or other tissue from a specific area within the body.

The CT scanner allows the Radiologist to guide the needle to the exact position in the body to take the sample. We perform the biopsy either under local, spinal or general anaesthetic; this will be discussed with you prior to the procedure.

How do I prepare for a CT guided biopsy?

We will ask you to attend a pre-operative assessment clinic prior to the day of the biopsy. We will also meet with you in the Imaging department to complete the consent process.

You will be admitted to the hospital on the day of the procedure. Inform your Consultant if you take any anti-coagulants to thin your blood or if you have any infections.

What happens during a CT guided biopsy?

You will be brought to the Imaging department on your hospital bed and dressed in a hospital gown. You will meet the team involved in the examination, who will introduce themselves. We will ask you to confirm your name and date of birth and what procedure you have come for.

The Anaesthetist will usually place a small cannula (a small tube placed into a vein) in the back of your hand and give you some medication to make you feel sleepy if you are having a general anaesthetic.

You will be positioned in the CT scanner and the Radiologist will prepare the area for biopsy by cleaning the skin with an antiseptic solution and using sterile drapes. The Radiologist uses the images from the CT scanner to plan the biopsy and monitor the needles position. When a sample is taken it is sent straight to the pathology department for analysis, the results of which can take up to 14 days.

The whole procedure can take around an hour to perform.

Who has requested I have this test?

The Consultant in charge of your care has requested this test as they feel it is the best way to get more information. You should have an opportunity to discuss this with the consultant's team. If you do not want the procedure you can choose not to have it done at any time. If you do not wish to proceed we will notify your consultant of your decision, they can then discuss further options with you.

What are the benefits of having this procedure?

Usually other imaging examinations have already identified an abnormal area in the body, but it is not always possible to say exactly what the abnormality is. By taking a small sample of this abnormal area, it can then be examined under a microscope for a diagnosis. This will then help plan any further treatment/management.

Are there any risks or complications to a CT guided biopsy?

A CT guided biopsy is considered a safe procedure and complications are rare. Usually the benefits of having the biopsy will outweigh the risks.

The risks and complications include:

- Pain and discomfort in the area the biopsy is performed
- Bleeding
- Infection of the skin or tissues surrounding the site of the biopsy
- Damage to tissues adjacent to site of the biopsy
- Some biopsies fail to give a diagnosis and may need to be repeated

What happens after the biopsy?

You will be taken back to the ward or day case unit to rest for a few hours. Please let the nursing staff know if you are in pain. Unless you are instructed otherwise you can eat and drink as normal.

You will usually be allowed home a few hours after the biopsy. You must have an adult to drive you home and stay with you overnight. Once discharged from the hospital, if you feel unwell or continue to have severe pain you should contact either your GP or your Consultant for advice.

How will I get the results?

It usually takes around 14 days for the results of a biopsy to be available. Your consultant who requested the biopsy will be in touch to discuss the results.

Who can I contact if I have any questions?

If you have a query regarding your appointment please call **01691 404395** to speak to one of our Radiology Nursing team.

Notes:

If you require a special edition of this leaflet

This leaflet is available in large print. Arrangements can also be made on request for it to be explained in your preferred language. Please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) email: rjah.pals.office@nhs.net

Feedback

Tell us what you think of our patient information leaflet. Please send your comments to the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) email: rjah.pals.office@nhs.net

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