

Image Guided Biopsy

A biopsy or needle aspiration is the removal of cells, pieces of tissue or fluid to diagnose or confirm the presence of a tumor or in some cases infection.

Important Information

You may not drive yourself home afterwards, unless you were informed by an IR personnel that the procedure can be done with local anesthetic only and no sedation.

Please leave your jewelry and other valuables at home.

Precautions

Tell the Interventional Radiology team member if you:

- Are pregnant
- Have diagnosed sleep apnea
- Are taking aspirin, Coumadin®, Lovenox®, Plavix® or other blood thinners
- Weigh more than 300 lbs
- Cannot lie flat due to pain or breathing trouble
- Have a pacemaker or defibrillator

Preparation

- Within 3 weeks before the biopsy, blood tests called INR and Platelet should be done. If these tests have not been done, please arrive at least 1-2 hours before your scheduled time to have these drawn. Not having the results or if the results or abnormal results, may cause your biopsy to be delayed or possibly rescheduled.
- Inform the IR doctor/PA if you are taking aspirin, Coumadin®, Lovenox®, Plavix® or other blood thinners because these medicines may need to be withheld prior to having the biopsy.
- Do not take insulin or other oral anti-diabetic medicines the morning of the biopsy.
- Do not eat or drink anything 8 hours before your biopsy appointment.
- You may take prescription medicines as directed with sips of water.
- Bring a list of your current medicines and allergies.
- Plan to spend at least 3 to 4 hours or longer at the hospital, depending on the type of biopsy.

Day of Procedure

1. You will report to the PACE area on the 1st level of the Heart Hospital (Please park in the P3 parking garage upon arrival as it is the closest to the PACE area). When you arrive, sign in with the receptionist at the PACE desk to register. After completion of registration, you will report the Adult Radiology/Surgical Waiting room desk and check in with the receptionist.
2. A nurse will start an intravenous (IV) line into a vein in your arm or hand or access your port-a catheter if you have one. You will receive fluids and medicines (to help you relax and to control your pain) through the IV during the procedure. For patients undergoing their biopsy with conscious sedation, you will be awake but made comfortable during your biopsy.
3. The procedure will take 1 to 2 hours.
4. The interventional radiologist will use ultrasound, CT scanner or MRI to locate the tumor.
5. Your skin around the biopsy site will be cleansed and a local anesthetic will be given.
6. A needle will be inserted into the tumor and a tissue sample will be taken.

Associated Risks

Potential for pain, bleeding, infection and damage to surrounding areas are all possibilities associated with any procedure including an image guided biopsy. In particular, image guided lung biopsy patients may cough up some blood during or after the procedure for several days to a week following the procedure. Patients undergoing kidney biopsies may experience blood in their urine for several days after the biopsy. Your physician assistant or Interventional Radiology physician will talk to you more about this in detail before your procedure.

Follow-up Care

- When the biopsy is complete, the site will be cleaned to prevent infection and a bandage will be placed over it. There are no stitches or staples to be removed.
- Depending on the type of biopsy you have, you may stay for observation up to 4 hours before you are discharged. During this time, a nurse will assess and monitor your pain related to the biopsy. If your biopsy pain continues or increases, your doctor may order more medicines to help relieve the pain. If you are currently taking a prescribed pain medicine, please bring it with you so you can take it after the biopsy.
- General recommendations for travel after a major organ biopsy are 24 hours after the procedure.
- Patients having a lung biopsy or biopsy with a pneumothorax (air leak, or collection of air between lung and its covering) risk, you will have follow-up chest x-rays during the recovery to determine if a small chest tube may have to be inserted to re-expand the lung. Rarely you may have to stay overnight for observation.
- Do not schedule flight or long car travel for at least 24 hours after your lung biopsy.

Patient Education



- You will be given written discharge and wound care instructions before going home.
- Biopsy results will be available from your doctor between 7 to 10 business days.

Interventional Radiology

Monday –Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

(904) 202-1037

After normal hours, or on the weekends, call the page operator at (904) 399- 5815 and ask for the Interventional Radiologist on call.

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center - Revised 01/2019

Reviewed 3/4/2020