

Why do I need to have a Biopsy?
The procedure (Biopsy) will assist your doctor to accurately identify an abnormality which has been demonstrated on a recent X-Ray, Ultrasound, CT or MR Scan, to check the cause or follow the progress of a condition. Your doctor will use this information to choose the best treatment for you.

X-Ray · Ultrasound · MRI · Biopsy · Angiography · CT
Mammography · Bone Mineral Densitometry · Dental X-Rays
Consultations · Interventional Radiology · Nuclear Medicine

Belconnen Lakeview Square
Bruce Calvary Clinic
Deakin Calvary John James Hospital
Erindale Valley Diagnostic Centre
Garran Brindabella Specialist Centre
Goulburn X-Ray Bourke Street
Queanbeyan Morisset House
Turner Construction House

Patient Booking Service 1300 788 508
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Biopsy

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You have been referred for BIOPSY which is a standard interventional procedure in which a doctor using a small needle collects samples of tissue for examination by a pathologist.

This may be a fine needle biopsy (FNA) or a core biopsy. The choice will be determined by your referring doctor and the doctor performing the procedure.

This will be performed in one of the Canberra Imaging Group practices or the procedure may be performed in the Angiography and Interventional Suite.

Please bring any relevant films and your referral to your appointment.

What Preparation is necessary for a biopsy?

You may be asked to fast for up to 4 hours prior to the procedure. You may also need to have a blood test to make sure your blood clots normally. You should not take Aspirin, Blood Thinning Tablets and some Arthritis tablets for a week before your Biopsy. Check with your Doctor or Pharmacist if you are unsure about any of the medications you currently take including non-prescription medications.

You must check with your doctor before stopping any prescription medication.

The Biopsy

The procedure will take about 30mins, the modality (CT Scan, Ultrasound) will be decided by the Medical Imaging Doctor.

First the area of skin over the site to be biopsied will be washed with an antiseptic solution, then local anaesthetic may be injected under the skin where the biopsy needle will be inserted, it will only take a moment for the area to become numb.

A Biopsy Needle will then be used to remove a small sample of tissue, you may be asked to hold your breath for a few seconds, it is important that you follow the instructions of the doctor and staff performing the biopsy. You will feel minimal discomfort during this stage of the procedure.

The sample of tissue may be examined under a microscope to confirm that the sample is suitable, the biopsy may be repeated if the doctor performing the biopsy needs to sample different parts of the abnormal area.

When the Biopsy Needle is removed for the last time, pressure is applied to the area briefly and the site will be covered with a bandaid if necessary.

You may need to stay at the centre for observation after the biopsy, the length of time will depend on the site and nature of the biopsy.

You may feel some discomfort at the biopsy site in the hours /days following the procedure, this is normal and can be relieved by Paracetamol. Do not take Aspirin or Ibuprofen for pain in the first week after the procedure.

The doctor performing the procedure will take careful precautions to avoid complications, however as for most medical tests a biopsy procedure carries some risk, these will be explained by the Medical Imaging Doctor prior to the procedure and depend largely on the site of the biopsy and whether a FNA or core biopsy is required.

You must contact your doctor if there is redness, swelling, increasing pain not relieved by analgesics, bleeding or discharge from the biopsy site. You should also contact your doctor if you have shortness of breath, cough, chest pain, severe nausea or vomiting or signs of infection such as fever.

The test results together with a procedure report will be sent to your referring doctor. The pathology results may incur an additional out of pocket fee from the reporting pathologist.

Please contact Canberra Imaging Group if you have any questions or concerns about this information. You may phone us prior to your appointment to speak with a Radiologist or you may ask questions on the day of your appointment.

Canberra Imaging Group strongly advise that you return to your referring doctor in order for your doctor to discuss your radiology and pathology report with you.