

A Biopsy is a standard interventional procedure in which a doctor using a 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. A Biopsy will assist your doctor to accurately identify an abnormality which has been demonstrated on a recent X-Ray, Ultrasound, CT or MRI 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.

Preparation

You may be asked to fast for up to 4 hours prior to the procedure.

You will 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.

Depending on the type of biopsy, nursing staff may contact you regarding your appointment.

The Procedure

The procedure will take about 30 minutes. 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 cleaned with an antiseptic solution. Then local anaesthetic may be injected under the skin where the biopsy needle will be inserted and once this has taken affect the procedure will commence.

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.

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 at the completion of the procedure, pressure is applied to the area briefly and the site will be covered with a dressing.

You will need to stay 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.

After the Biopsy

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.

You must seek medical attention if you experience any of the following symptoms:

- » Redness
- » Swelling
- » Increasing pain that is not relieved by analgesics
- » Bleeding
- » Discharge from the biopsy site
- » Shortness of breath
- » Cough
- » Chest pain
- » Severe nausea or vomiting

To ensure that we are providing you with the best service, at any stage of the examination if you have any questions or concerns, please ask our staff.

We also welcome any feedback.



Appointment

Please phone or SMS our friendly booking service on 1300 788 508 or request an appointment online www.canberraimaging.com.au.

What to bring

Please bring the following items with you to your appointment:
→ Your referral
→ Any relevant films
→ Medicare card
→ Pension / Health Care card

Your results

Your doctor will receive fast and convenient electronic access to your reports and images. Canberra Imaging Group strongly advise that you return to your referring doctor in order for your doctor to discuss your results with you.