

Patient information factsheet

Having a percutaneous biopsy in the CT imaging suite as a day case patient

About percutaneous biopsies

We have been asked to perform a percutaneous biopsy of your.....

A percutaneous biopsy is a test during which a needle is passed through the skin to take a tiny sample of tissue from an area inside the body.

The tissue sample is then sent to the laboratory where it is looked at under a microscope. This allows the cells within the tissue sample to be seen (cells are the building blocks that make up your body). In some conditions the cells look and behave differently to normal cells. This will help the doctors to diagnose any problems and plan the treatment that you may need.

The radiologist (x-ray doctor) will use an ultrasound machine or CT scanner to guide the needle to the right place in the body.

Percutaneous biopsies are usually very safe procedures. However, you need to be aware that there are risks with all procedures. For biopsies, these include bleeding, damage to the tissue near the biopsy site, pain, infection and a negative or unhelpful result. Your consultant will have weighed up the risks and benefits of having the test and will be happy to discuss these with you further.

You will be under close observation for a few hours after your biopsy. This is to ensure that there is no bleeding. If there is bleeding it is usually minor and requires no treatment. Only one or two patients in every 1000 experience major bleeding and require treatment to reseal the leaking blood vessels. The risk of bleeding varies according to the body area being biopsied. The radiologist will discuss the more precise risks with you when obtaining your consent to the procedure.

Before the biopsy

Your consultant will assess you as being suitable for having a biopsy as a day case procedure. You will have a blood test to check how well your blood clots.

If you are taking warfarin please ring the CT imaging suite on **023 8120 4198** for advice.

You may be asked to come for an appointment to check that you are suitable to have your biopsy as a day case patient (this is known as pre-assessment).

On the day

1. Do not eat for four hours before your test except to take your regular medicines (for diabetes see below). You may drink clear fluids.
2. **If you are diabetic do not** take your diabetes medicine on the morning of the test. Bring it with you to take after the procedure. You may also wish to bring a snack.
3. Bring a list of all your medicines with you.

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4. Please have a bath or shower before you come into hospital. If hibiscrub has been provided by the hospital, please use this to wash with.
5. You may bring your own dressing gown, slippers, reading material, toiletries and a small personal music system.
6. At your appointment time please be sure to report to the location given on the attached letter.
7. On arrival you will be booked in and asked to dress in a hospital gown.
8. You will be taken to the CT imaging suite or ultrasound department by a member of ward staff or a porter.

The biopsy

1. The radiologist doing the biopsy will speak with you before beginning the procedure and fill in a consent form with you. You will be able to ask any questions you may have.
2. The radiologist will use the ultrasound machine or CT scanner to find the best place to take the biopsy from. You will need to remain still.
3. The radiologist will give you an injection of local anaesthetic to numb the area where the biopsy is to be taken. Local anaesthetic stings for a moment before the area in which it was administered goes numb. After that you only feel mild to moderate pressure as the biopsy is taken.
4. When the local anaesthetic has taken effect the radiologist will pass a small needle through the numbed area and take a tissue sample. It is often necessary to take more than one sample.
5. The procedure usually takes about 20 minutes. When finished, a small dressing will be put over the biopsy site and you will be taken to the ward allocated for your recovery.
6. To reduce the risk of bleeding you will be asked to remain in bed for up to three hours.
7. Your blood pressure and pulse will be carefully monitored during your recovery time.
8. Painkillers will be provided if needed.
9. You will be given light refreshments during your stay.

Going home

After your recovery time, if all is well, you will be able to go home with an accompanying adult. This usually occurs four to six hours after your biopsy.

Please arrange for someone to take you home. **You must not drive yourself or use public transport.** If hospital transport is required please contact your GP surgery.

At home

1. Rest quietly for the next 24 hours.
2. Drink plenty (but not alcohol). Eat normally. Take your usual medicine.
3. Start normal activities gradually but avoid heavy work for two days.
4. The biopsy site may be uncomfortable for a day or two. Take simple painkillers if needed.
5. Report to your GP if you suffer a high temperature, persistent pain (lasting more than three days after the biopsy, with no relief from the painkillers) or you have a swelling in the area of the biopsy.
6. If you have had a kidney biopsy it is normal to have blood stained urine for 24 hours. If this continues, or is very heavy, please seek medical advice.
7. Dial 999 if you feel very unwell, faint or dizzy, with pain or swelling of the abdomen. An ambulance will need to take you to the nearest emergency department to check for internal bleeding.

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Useful information

Children attending the department must be accompanied and supervised by an adult at all times. Staff are unable to supervise children for you.

University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust cannot accept responsibility for any loss or damage to personal property.

Please see our website www.uhs.nhs.uk for details about parking, facilities and other information.

Department location

CT imaging suite
Oncology centre
B Level
Southampton General Hospital
Tremona Road
Southampton
SO16 6YD

Telephone: **023 8120 4198** (please leave a message)
Opening hours: Monday to Friday from 8am to 5pm.

If you need a translation of this document, an interpreter or a version in large print, Braille or on audio tape, please telephone 023 8120 4688 for help.