



Having a Bone Biopsy

What is a biopsy and why is it needed?

A biopsy is a minor procedure that is done to remove a sample of tissue and this is sent to a specially trained pathologist to be analysed. It is one of the investigations that are necessary for the multi-disciplinary team (MDT) to make a diagnosis.

How is the biopsy done?

You will have your biopsy done in theatre. A small incision is made to remove a sample of tissue under general anaesthetic. The same is transported to our specialist laboratory where the tissue is examined and a diagnosis is made.

What are the risks?

- There is a small risk of infection.
- It is possible that the biopsy may need to be repeated.
- If a bone biopsy is done there is a risk of a fracture occurring due to the bone being weakened at the biopsy site. If you have a biopsy of bone from a lower limb it may be necessary for you to use crutches to prevent you from putting direct weight through the limb. The physiotherapist will be able to advise you about this.

When will I know the result?

The biopsy result and the results of your other scans and x-rays are discussed by the specialist team at our weekly MDT meeting and treatment is planned. This takes approximately 10-14 days, but can sometimes take longer. You will be contacted as soon as the result is available by either telephone or letter. You may decide to return to the oncology clinic for your results or you can choose to have your results from your GP. You will be asked how you prefer to receive your results at the time your biopsy is taken.

When can I go home?

You may need to stay in hospital overnight following the biopsy to allow you to recover from anaesthetic or you may be discharged on the same day, it really depends on your rate of recovery from the anaesthetic, so please ensure that someone is available to collect you. If this is not possible, then transport can be arranged but prior notice must be given.

How will I feel after the biopsy?

It is quite normal to experience some discomfort for a few days following biopsy and we will be able to supply you with painkillers to take home. If you require a further supply then these can be obtained from your general practitioner.

Care of the biopsy site

- The wound will be covered with a clear transparent dressing called OPSITE.
- This is to remain on for two weeks (a nurse will give you a date for the removal of the dressing).

- Try to avoid getting the OPSITE too wet as this will encourage it to gradually 'lift off'.

Who to contact for information

If you have any concerns or wish to access a member of the multi-disciplinary team (MDT) please speak to the appropriate secretary or Macmillan nurse specialist/keyworker using the following contact details.

Consultant	Secretary	Macmillan Key Worker / Nurse Specialist
Mr Parry	0121 685 4045	Andrea Slade 0121 685 4052
Professor Jeys	0121 685 4359	Andrea Slade 0121 685 4052
Mr Tillman	0121 685 4399	Fiona Fitzgibbons 0121 685 4368
Mr Stevenson	0121 685 4037	Fiona Fitzgibbons 0121 685 4368
Mr Gregory	0121 685 4021	Emma Ward 0121 685 4000 ext. 55274
Professor Abudu	0121 685 4151	Emma Ward 0121 685 4000 ext. 55274
Mr Evans	0121 685 4144	Emma Ward 0121 685 4000 ext. 55274
Mr Jadadeesan & Mr Srinivasan	0121 685 4398	

Oncology Nurse Consultant:

Anita Killingworth
0121 685 4031

Clinical Nurse Specialist for patient under the age of 24 for all consultants:

Jane Forsythe
0121 685 4368

Macmillan Navigator:

Lorraine Mole
0121 685 4031

Confidentiality

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“Ensuring Information Confidentiality

This is available in waiting areas, on the Trust website or can be requested through the Communications department by calling 0121 685 4379.