



Royal Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Foundation Trust Patient Information

Having a CT Guided Biopsy Spinal Patients

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 the specially trained pathologist to be analysed. It is one of the investigations that are necessary for the multidisciplinary team (MDT) to make a diagnosis.

How is the biopsy done?

You will have your biopsy done in the Radiology Department under CT guidance. A small incision is made to remove a sample of tissue under general anaesthetic. The sample 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. 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 either by telephone or letter. You may decide to return to 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 you have your biopsy taken.

When can I go home?

You may need to stay in hospital overnight following the biopsy to allow you to recover from the anaesthetic or you may be discharged on the same day. It really depends on your rate of recovery from the anaesthetic. You will **NOT** be allowed to go home on your own due to the effects of 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 the biopsy and we will be able to supply you with painkillers to take at home. If you require a further supply then these can be obtained from your general practitioner.

Care of the biopsy site

- There will be a small wound, this will be closed using steristrips and covered with a small dressing.
- The dressing and steristrips should be left in place for 48 hours and then you should carefully peel off the dressing and steristrips.
- When these have been removed check that the wound is clean, dry

