

Respiratory Department

CT guided needle biopsy (lung)

This leaflet is to provide clarity for those patients undergoing a CT guided needle biopsy.

What is a CT guided lung needle biopsy?

A guided needle biopsy is a procedure that takes a small sample of cells (biopsy) from the lung tissue for further analysis. The CT scanner allows the radiologist (X-Ray Doctor) to accurately locate the best place to access the sample required. The sample is obtained by inserting a needle into the lung, using local anaesthetic and extracting a small sample of cells.

Why do I need a biopsy?

Previous investigations, such as a Chest X-Ray have suggested an area within the lung needs further examination. A lung biopsy can help diagnosis the problem which will help the doctor to discuss with you whether you need further treatment.

Preparing for the procedure

In the morning you can have a light breakfast and tea/coffee before 07:00. Please take your usual medication. Those taking Warfarin, Aspirin or Diabetic medication should have received specific instructions, if you are unsure please phone either your nurse specialist or the radiology department.

The procedure is planned to be undertaken as a day case, with approximately a four hour recovery, you will **not** be able to drive home and will require someone to stay with you overnight that night. Occasionally however, you maybe asked to stay in hospital that night so please bring an overnight bag in with you.

What will happen?

You will be advised where to report to prior to the day of the biopsy (usually Ward N3 or PSSU), from here you will be taken to the Radiology Department. Just before the biopsy is taken a CT scan of your chest will be performed, once the exact location of the sample site has been identified your skin will be cleaned and a local anaesthetic injected to numb the area. The local anaesthetic may sting a little for a short period of time. Following this the biopsy itself should not be painful, but maybe uncomfortable. Often the radiologist will take three or four biopsies from the same area.

Once the procedure has finished you will go back the ward, where you will recover and lie on your side for an hour. Shortly after this you will be able to eat and drink. A Chest X Ray will be performed approximately 4 hours after the biopsy prior to you going home.

The results will be discussed with you once they are ready, five to seven days after the procedure.

Are there any risks or complications?

A needle biopsy is considered a safe procedure, although a common complication is a pneumothorax. This is where air can enter the chest cavity during the procedure causing part of the lung to collapse. A small pneumothorax, which can occur in up to 25% of cases does not require any intervention and repairs independently however, a larger leak may require a drain to be inserted. This drain withdraws the trapped air allowing the lung to re expand and occurs in approximately 5% of patients. Insertion of a chest drain would require an overnight hospital stay.

After the procedure some people cough up a small amount of blood, this should not be a cause for concern and should settle within a day or so, however if it persists and you feel unwell or are unsure then please contact your GP.

The biopsy site itself may feel a little sore which is to be expected and should settle after a few days. Occasionally there may also be bleeding from this area, if this doesn't resolve after a period of ten minutes of applied pressure or you feel unwell or faint please seek urgent medical attention.

Alternatives

It is possible to take a biopsy using a bronchoscope (a long narrow flexible tube) which is passed through the nose or mouth to reach the lungs. A biopsy can also be taken using a surgical procedure to reach the lung tissue. Your doctor will explain to you the reasons a needle biopsy has been chosen as opposed to the alternative options and will happily discuss these with you.

Contacts/Further information

For further information please feel free to contact your nurse specialist or the CT department.

References/ Sources of evidence

BTS Guidelines for radiologically guided lung biopsy. Thorax (2003) 58: 920-936.



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For advice and support in quitting, contact your GP or the free NHS stop smoking helpline on 0800 169 0 169

Help with this leaflet:



If you would like this information in another language, large print or audio format, please ask the department to contact Patient Information: 01223 216032 or patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Polish

Jeżeli chciałbyś uzyskać te informacje w innym języku, w dużej czcionce lub w formacie audio, poproś pracownika oddziału o kontakt z biurem Informacji Pacjenta (Patient Information) pod numerem telefonu: 01223 216032 lub pod adresem patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Portuguese

Se precisar desta informação noutra língua, em impressão de letras grandes ou formato áudio, por favor peça ao departamento que contacte a secção de Informação aos Doentes (Patient Information) pelo telefone 01223 216032 ou através do e-mail patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Arabic

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Cantonese

如您需要以另一語言版本、特大字體或錄音形式索取本資料，請要求部門聯絡病人諮詢服務：電話 01223 216032，電郵地址 patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Turkish

Eğer bu bilgileri başka bir dilde veya büyük baskılı veya sesli olarak isterseniz, lütfen bulunduğunuz bölümdeki görevlilere söyleyin Hasta Bilgilendirme servisini arasinlar: 01223 216032 veya patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Urdu

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی دیگر زبان میں، بڑے الفاظ میں یا آڈیو طریقہ سے درکار ہوں تو برائے مہربانی اس شعبہ سے پیشینٹ انفارمیشن سے ذیل کے ذریعہ رابطہ کریں: 01223 216032 یا patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk کی درخواست کریں:

Bengali

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Document history

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