

Ultrasound and CT-guided Biopsy or Aspiration

General Information

An ultrasound uses sound waves to “see” the inside of your body. A television monitor shows the images from the sound waves. From these images, the doctor can see which areas may need a biopsy (taking a piece of tissue) or aspiration (taking fluid).

A CT (computed tomography) scan uses a computer and X-rays to show the images. From these images, the doctor finds the exact location for the biopsy or aspiration.

The exam takes 30 to 60 minutes.

What To Tell Your Doctor

Tell your doctor if you:

- are pregnant
- have a latex allergy
- have a bleeding condition.

Before the Exam

- Arrange to have someone drive you home after the exam.
- Do not eat food for 4 hours.
- You may drink fluids up until 2 hours.
- Do not drink alcoholic beverages.
- Bring a list of your medicines with you to the hospital.
- Take your regular medicines with small sips of water in the morning unless your doctor told you otherwise.

Your Appointment

Location: _____

Date: _____

Time: _____ a.m. / p.m.

Arrive 30 minutes before your exam.

Phone number: _____

If you need to cancel or reschedule, call at least 24 hours before your scheduled appointment.

- Check with your doctor about taking blood-thinning medicines (such aspirin, Coumadin®, Plavix® or Ticlid®). You may need to stop taking them within certain times before the exam. Your doctor will tell you how long to be off these medicines.
- At the hospital, you may have an IV (intravenous) line started in your arm — depending on your needs.
- You may be taken to the lab for some blood tests.
- You will be taken to the procedure care area.
- A nurse will take a brief health history and ask you what medicines you are taking.
- Your blood pressure, temperature and pulse will be checked.
- You will be asked to urinate before going to the Imaging or Radiology Department.

(over)

During the Exam

- You may be given medicine through the IV for comfort.
- The doctor will give you a numbing medicine.
- The exam will take place in either ultrasound, CT scan, or general X-ray, depending on your doctor's orders.
- The area to be checked will be scanned to find the exact spot for the biopsy or aspiration.
- The skin over that area will be cleansed with special soap and covered with a drape.
- A special needle will be inserted into the area to get the tissue or to drain the fluid.
- The needle will be removed, pressure applied, and a dressing or bandage put on the site.
- You may have a follow-up X-ray before going to the recovery area.

After the Exam

- In the recovery area you will have your blood pressure, temperature and pulse checked.
- You will be asked to remain in bed from 1 to 4 hours.
- The needle insertion site will be checked for bleeding.
- The IV line will be removed.
- You must have someone drive you home.
- Once you go home, keep your activity level low.
- Do not lift anything for 24 hours.
- You may return to your regular medicines **unless** you are told otherwise by the nurses or doctor.
- You may eat and drink.
- If you are given a prescription after the biopsy/aspiration, take the complete prescription as ordered.
- You will be given discharge instructions. Call the doctor if you have:
 - excessive bleeding
 - chills or fever higher than 101 F
 - excessive pain, swelling, redness or drainage.