

Kidney (Renal) Biopsy

Kidney Biopsy

A kidney biopsy is the removal of a small piece of your kidney tissue to use for special tests. The biopsy can be done with you either fully awake or under light sedation.

The health care provider passes a thin needle through your skin into the area of the kidney to get a tissue sample. He or she may use an X-ray or a type of sonar to help guide the needle.

The biopsy usually takes 30 to 60 minutes.

Before The Biopsy

- You may have blood drawn from your arm for lab tests to aid the health care provider in the exam.
- You will be asked to sign a consent form.

During The Biopsy

- You will receive an injection (shot) of an anesthetic where the needle will enter. This medicine will reduce your discomfort.
- Once your health care provider has enough kidney tissue, he or she will remove the needle and put a bandage on the site.

After The Biopsy

- Your blood pressure and pulse will be checked often to look for any signs of internal bleeding.
- You will need to stay in bed for 6 to 12 hours, or as directed by your health care provider.
- You will be able to eat and drink.
- Avoid heavy lifting and strenuous activity for about two weeks.
- Avoid straining to have a bowel movement. Your doctor may prescribe a stool softener or laxative.
- Check with your health care provider about resuming aspirin or any other blood-thinning medicine.

When To Call Your Health Care Provider

Problems rarely occur after this exam, but call your health care provider if you:

- have bloody urine
- are not able to pass urine
- have worsening pain at the biopsy site
- have a fever of more than 100 F
- feel faint.