

CT Guided Biopsy

Patient Information

This patient information sheet should answer any questions you have about your procedure. If you still have questions after reading this, you can visit the Diagnostics section of our website www.theholly.com, telephone the Diagnostic Centre on 020 8936 1202 or email diagnostics@theholly.com

You are scheduled to have a CT guided biopsy. This leaflet will tell you what to expect.

What is a CT (computerised tomography) scan?

This is a type of scan which uses x-ray to make detailed images of your body in 'slice sections'. These images are examined by a Consultant Radiologist. The CT scanner looks like a large open ring, rather than the tunnel everyone expects.

What is a CT guided biopsy?

Other tests you have had, such as a previous CT scan or ultrasound, have shown an area of abnormal tissue inside your body. A biopsy involves collecting a small sample of this tissue so we can look at it under the microscope. It will hopefully allow us to diagnose and assist in giving

you the best form of treatment. Sometimes biopsies are repeated in order to assess the effects of various treatments.

Preparing for your CT guided biopsy

- Please inform the Diagnostics Department if you are taking Warfarin or Metaformin for diabetes.
- We will ask you to come to the Outpatients Department for some blood tests before you have your biopsy. It's very important that these blood tests are performed no earlier than two days before the biopsy. It's also important to note that we cannot carry out the biopsy if your blood tests haven't been done.
- Do not eat or drink anything for 8 hours before the biopsy.



- You may be admitted as a day case patient for this procedure.
- You should report to the main reception at the time allocated, unless otherwise specified. You will be shown to your room where necessary preparations will be carried out and the Nurse/Radiographer will explain the procedure.

How the biopsy is done

Your biopsy will be performed under CT guidance by a Consultant Radiologist in the CT department. You will be awake during the procedure and the doctor will explain each stage before proceeding.

You will be given an injection with local anaesthetic to make the area of the biopsy numb. This can sting and

may be a little unpleasant but the sensation only lasts for a few minutes before it numbs the area. A needle is then introduced into the site for a few seconds while the biopsy is taken. This will be sent to the laboratory to be examined under a microscope by a Pathologist. We use the CT scanner to take images of the position of the needle as we collect the biopsy to make sure the correct sample of tissue is taken.

The biopsy will help provide a diagnosis for the majority of patients. It will help your doctors to choose the most appropriate treatment for your condition.

You will then have a small dressing applied. The whole procedure takes approximately 30 minutes but this may vary depending on the area involved.

After the biopsy

After the biopsy we will take you back to your room. You will remain in bed, lying flat for four to six hours to recover. Our Nursing Team will monitor your pulse and blood pressure and check the biopsy site and a doctor will review you before you are discharged home.

Going home after the biopsy

It is very important that you arrange for a responsible adult to collect you and to stay with you on the night you are discharged. Most patients are well enough to go to work the next day, however if you have a manual job, you may wish to take two to three days off work.

Getting the results

Most biopsy results are available one to two weeks after the procedure, however it can sometimes take longer.

You will need to arrange an appointment with your referring doctor to discuss your results afterwards. Occasionally we may telephone patients to discuss their results.

If you have any concerns about this procedure please do not hesitate to contact the Diagnostics Department.

Please note that costs for pathology will be invoiced separately. You can contact the Pathology Department by calling 020 8936 1204.

Are there any possible complications or risks?

CT guided biopsy is considered a safe procedure. Small risks vary depending on where we take the biopsy from. The main complication is bleeding or infection. Despite these small risks your doctor has decided to refer you for this examination because they feel the benefit of having the biopsy outweigh the risks of having it done.

1. You may experience some mild discomfort following the biopsy. If this happens, please tell the nurses looking after you who can arrange for the doctor to prescribe a mild analgesic (painkiller). Very occasionally patients having a biopsy from the chest area may sometimes experience chest pain and/or difficulty in breathing or you may cough up blood. Should this occur you must seek medical attention immediately.
2. There is a very small risk of bleeding following abdominal biopsies. If bleeding does occur it may be internally into the abdominal space. Should this occur it would cause pain and a change in your pulse and blood pressure and medical attention must be sought immediately.
3. Sometimes it is not possible to obtain any tissue, because either the area to be sampled is very small or there is a lot of fluid in the abdomen.

Important information for patients paying for their own treatment

We respectfully request that your account is settled either by insurance authorisation or payment at the time of your appointment. A fee may be charged for non-attendance or if less than 24 hours notice is given to cancel an appointment.

Further information

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further queries. You can telephone the Diagnostic Centre on 020 8936 1202 or email diagnostics@theholly.com. Alternatively you can visit the Diagnostics section of our website www.theholly.com

If you would like a copy of this information in large print or an alternative language, please call 020 8936 1214.

Please note we are unable to provide child care facilities during your examination and in most cases children will be unable to accompany you into the examination rooms.

Call: 020 8505 3311 (Main Switchboard)

Call: 020 8936 1202 (Diagnostic Centre)

Email: diagnostics@theholly.com

Visit: theholly.com

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