

# Core 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](http://www.theholly.com), telephone the Diagnostic Centre on 020 8936 1202 or email [diagnostics@theholly.com](mailto:diagnostics@theholly.com)**

### **What is a core biopsy?**

A core biopsy is a surgical procedure in which a small cut is made in the skin and small samples of tissue are removed. The procedure is carried out under local anaesthetic and performed by a Consultant Radiologist (a doctor who specialises in interpreting medical images). The samples or biopsy are then sent away to be examined under a microscope.

### **What are the benefits?**

The biopsy can be used by your doctor to diagnose your condition and propose suitable treatment.

### **What happens during the procedure?**

A member of staff will ask you about any medical problems, medication

and allergies. After this, the Consultant Radiologist will explain the procedure to you, as well as the risks, and ask you to sign a consent form.

The Consultant Radiologist will clean the surgery site with an antiseptic or saline (salt) solution and inject a local anaesthetic into the skin to numb the area. The injection may sting a little but this sensation lasts for only a few seconds. If the area is hairy, we may need to clip it. You will be fully awake for the procedure.

A sharp instrument is then used to cut the skin and then a needle-like instrument is inserted into the incision to remove the tissue. The size and shape of the piece of tissue removed will depend on your condition, but we will discuss this with you. Some wounds need to be stitched while others are like a graze and do not need stitches. A dressing is usually

continued overleaf

applied at the end of the procedure.

The local anaesthetic will gradually wear off over the next few hours. You may feel a little sore or uncomfortable in the area where you have had the core biopsy. You may wish to take a pain killing tablet such as Paracetamol and if so, please follow the instructions on the package. A cold compress may also be applied to the area to help relieve pain.

You may also have some bruising to the area or a lump around the biopsy site. The extent of this will vary widely from patient to patient and may take several days to weeks to clear up.

### **How long does it take?**

The appointment usually lasts approximately 20 to 40 minutes.

### **Infection**

Although we take care to prevent infection, there is a very small possibility that the wound may become infected. If pus, (thick greenish/yellow fluid) leaks from the wound, or if the area feels very hot and swollen, then you should contact your GP. A small amount of watery fluid will often leak from the wound, especially in the first two

days. This is normal and does not indicate infection.

### **What happens next?**

We will send the results of your biopsy to your referring Consultant. Please book a follow up appointment to discuss your results with them.

### **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](mailto:diagnostics@theholly.com). Alternatively you can visit the Diagnostics section of our website [www.theholly.com](http://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 (Diagnostics Centre)**

**Email: [diagnostics@theholly.com](mailto:diagnostics@theholly.com)**

**Visit: [theholly.com](http://theholly.com)**

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