

Patient information

Information about your percutaneous biopsy



What is a percutaneous biopsy?

A needle biopsy is a way of taking a small sample of tissue out of your body, using a special needle. This allows the doctors to look at the sample under a microscope to find out what it is. This will allow an accurate diagnosis and treatment plan for you. As this biopsy is done through the skin, it is called a percutaneous biopsy.

Why do you need a percutaneous biopsy?

Other tests that you have already had performed such as blood tests, an ultrasound or a computed tomography (CT) scan, will have shown that there is an area of abnormal tissue inside your body. From the scan, it is not always possible to say exactly what the abnormality is due to, and the simplest way of finding out is by taking a tiny sample and to look at it under a microscope.

Who has made the decision?

The consultant in charge of your care, and the radiologist performing the procedure have discussed your case, and feel that this is the best option. However, you will also have the opportunity for your opinion to be considered, and if, after discussion with your doctors, you no longer want the procedure, you can decide against it.

Who will be doing the percutaneous biopsy?

A specially trained doctor called a radiologist. They have special expertise in reading the images and using imaging to guide the needle to the abnormal area.

Where will the procedure take place?

In the radiology department – either in the ultrasound room, CT scanner or a special X-ray room. It all depends on where the tissue is in the body and which imaging the radiologist feels is best for you.

Are you required to make any special preparations?

You may need to be an inpatient in the hospital, although some biopsies are performed as an outpatient. You will probably have had some blood tests performed beforehand, to check that you do not have an increased risk of bleeding. Please contact the nursing team on 01284 713095 if you take any medication which 'thins' your blood. You may eat and drink as usual on the morning of your procedure.

If you have any allergies, you **must** let your doctor know. If you have previously reacted to intravenous contrast medium or iodine (the dye used for kidney x-rays and CT scans), then you **must** also tell your doctor about this.

What happens during the procedure?

You will be asked to get undressed and put on a hospital gown. You will need to have a cannula put into a vein in your arm so that you can have painkillers if needed. What happens does depend on where the abnormal tissue is in your body and which type of imaging is being used. Usually, you will lie on your back or front in the position the radiologist has decided is most suitable. This will be discussed with you before the procedure.

A biopsy is performed under sterile conditions and the radiologist will wear sterile gloves to carry out the procedure.

Your skin will be cleaned with antiseptic and you will be covered by sterile drapes. The radiologist will use an ultrasound probe or CT scanner to decide on the most suitable point for inserting the biopsy needle. Your skin near the point of insertion will be numbed using local anaesthetic, and the needle inserted into the abnormal tissue. The needle makes a loud click when it takes the sample.

The West Suffolk Hospital is a teaching hospital and as part of their training it is necessary for students to observe examinations. If you do not wish for an observer to be present please tell the receptionist on arrival.

Will it hurt?

When the local anaesthetic is injected, it will sting for a short while, but this soon wears off. Some discomfort may be felt when the biopsy is taken.

How long will it take?

Every patient is different, and it is not always easy to predict; however, expect to be in the radiology department for about 30 minutes.

What happens afterwards?

You will be taken back to your ward on your bed. Nursing staff will carry out routine observations, including pulse and blood pressure. You will generally stay in bed for a few hours, until you have recovered and are ready to go home. If you have had a lung biopsy, then you will almost certainly have a chest x-ray performed at some stage.

Are there any risks or complications?

Percutaneous biopsy is a very safe procedure, but as with any medical procedures there are some risks and complications that can arise.

If you are having a liver or kidney biopsy, then there is a risk of bleeding, though this is generally very slight. If the bleeding were to continue, then it is possible that you might need a blood transfusion. Very rarely, an operation or another radiological procedure is required to stop the bleeding.

If you are having a lung biopsy performed, it is possible that air can get into the space around the lung (pneumothorax). This generally does not cause any real problems, but if it causes the lung to collapse, the air will need to be drained, either with a needle or a small plastic tube, inserted through the skin.

Unfortunately, some biopsies fail to give an answer. This may be because, despite taking every possible care, the piece of tissue which has actually been obtained is normal rather than abnormal. Alternatively, although abnormal tissue has been obtained, it may not be enough for the pathologist (an expert in making diagnoses from tissue samples) to make a definite diagnosis. The radiologist doing your biopsy may be able to give you some idea as to the chance of obtaining a satisfactory sample.

Despite these possible complications, percutaneous biopsy is normally very safe, and is designed to save you from having a bigger procedure.

Finally...

Some of your questions should have been answered by this leaflet, but remember that this is only a starting point for discussion about your treatment with the doctors looking after you. Make sure you are satisfied that you have received enough information about the procedure, before you sign the consent form.

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This leaflet has been prepared from guidance given by the British Society of Interventional Radiology. For the most up to date advice please visit:
<https://www.bsir.org/patients/patient-information-leaflets>

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to ring the X-ray department and ask for any of the nursing staff on 01284 713095.

Your appointment will be carried out sometime during the day that you are asked to attend. It is difficult to specify exact appointment times.

If we require you to attend the ward on arrival a further letter will be sent to you informing you of this.

If you cannot for any reason keep this appointment please telephone 01284 713095 which is a direct line into the department. This will avoid undue delay and will help us to keep our waiting list as short as possible

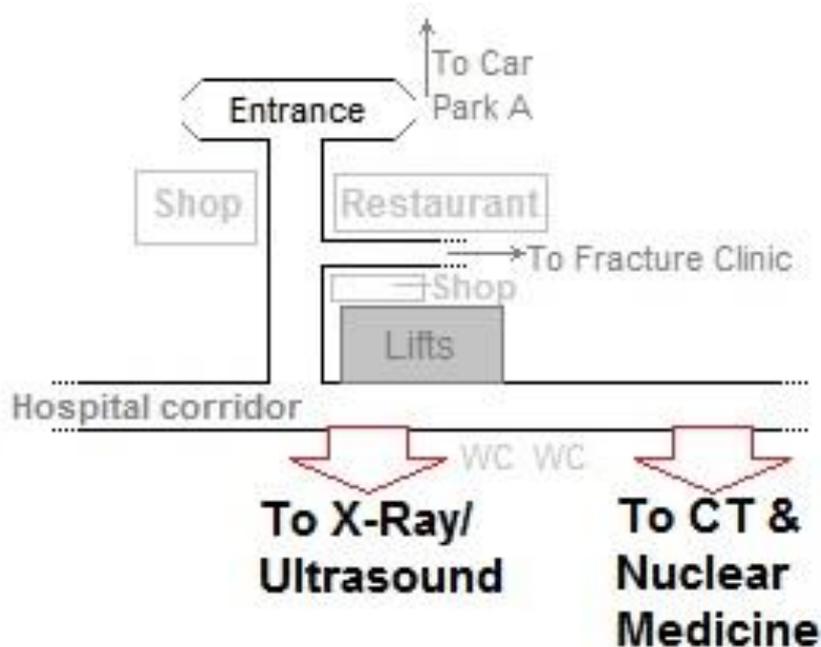
Please note: The hospital is not responsible for any lost or stolen valuables. Please leave all jewellery at home, including body piercing ornaments and rings if possible. Wedding rings need not be removed.

Hospital transport

Transport has **not** been booked.

If you are eligible for transport or have any queries regarding transport eligibility, please contact the E-zec booking office on **0300 999 6666**.

Directions to X-ray and Ultrasound department



(Please refer to your letter to know if you should arrive at the X-ray department or a ward)

Car parking for patients/visitors is available in Car Park A at the front of the hospital (the first car park to the right as you enter the site), and Car Park D at the rear of the site near the MRI and Macmillan Units.

West Suffolk Hospital operates a number plate recognition system for all vehicles entering the site. When ready to leave, please visit one of the pay stations on site. Enter your vehicle registration number and pay the required fee. The exit barriers will recognise the vehicle registration and that the parking has been paid for, and will open automatically. Please check the hospital website (www.wsh.nhs.uk) for further information on car parking, fees, exemptions and penalties.

Please allow plenty of time to park before your appointment as the car parks are continuously busy throughout the day.

Feedback

Please tell us about your experience in the Radiology Department following your appointment:

Email: imaging.comments@wsh.nhs.uk

Or complete our online survey using this weblink:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TT7J2H2>

Your opinions help shape the department for future patients.

X-rays and pregnancy

Because of the potential risks to an unborn child we need to know, for certain examinations, if there is any possibility of a patient being pregnant.

All patients between the ages of 12 years and 54 years of age will be asked if there is the possibility of pregnancy.

Discussion will be carried out in private and in confidence.

It is not advisable to bring children with you for this appointment as legally staff cannot look after them.

Data protection information

West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust will manage your information in line with the General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679. The information you provide will be retained for the purposes of your healthcare. The information will be retained in line with the *NHS Records Management Code of Practice for Health & Social care*.

You have rights in relation to the way we process your information. If you no longer want us to use your information for the purposes specified above; if you want to request to have your information erased or rectified, please contact the Information Governance team on 01284 712781.

We will review all requests in relation to your rights under GDPR, along with our responsibilities for record keeping.

Images may be used for research purposes as well as teaching. Patients must inform a member of staff if they do not consent to this.

As part of a shared service agreement with other NHS organisations, your radiology images and records may be shared with these other organisations as part of determining and providing your care. If you would like to know more about the extent of this sharing, or you wish us not to share at all with another organisation, or have any other concerns about it, please contact a member of staff.