

Dorset County Hospital



NHS Foundation Trust

Diagnostic Imaging Department

**FINE NEEDLE
ASPIRATION
BIOPSY**

This booklet is designed to answer any questions you may have about the procedure.

INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS UNDERGOING FINE NEEDLE ASPIRATION BIOPSY (FNA)

Introduction

This booklet tells you about the procedure known as 'Fine Needle Aspiration Biopsy'. It explains what is involved and what the possible risks are.

What is 'Fine Needle Aspiration Biopsy'?

A fine needle aspiration biopsy is a simple procedure that involves passing a fine needle through the skin to sample fluid or tissue from a cyst or a solid mass.

Who will be performing the procedure?

A doctor called a Radiologist who has been specially trained in using x-ray and scanning equipment to place the biopsy needle into the abnormal tissue will perform the biopsy.

Where will the procedure take place?

In the x-ray department in an ultrasound room or a 'special procedures' room, with an ultrasound machine.

Is there any preparation?

If you are taking any 'blood thinning' medication e.g. Warfarin, this may increase the chance of bleeding following the procedure. This should be stopped prior to the procedure following discussion with your referring doctor.

What happens during the fine needle aspiration biopsy?

The Radiologist will explain the procedure to you before commencing the biopsy.

You may be required to change into an x-ray gown; this will depend upon the area to be biopsied. You will be asked to lie on an x-ray couch. The Radiologist will clean the skin with antiseptic to help avoid infection. We will keep everything as sterile as possible; you may have part of your body covered with a sterile towel. The Radiologist will examine the lump and determine the best position to place the needle by using the ultrasound machine. A small plaster may be placed over the biopsy site at the end.

How long will it take?

Every patient's situation is different, and it is not always easy to predict how difficult the procedure will be. The biopsy may take about 30 minutes.

Will it hurt?

Minor discomfort may be experienced but the procedure should not be painful.

What happens afterwards?

You will need to remain in the department for approximately 30 minutes after the procedure; you will be offered a drink and light refreshments.

You will not get the results of your biopsy before you leave, as it takes a few days to do the necessary tests on the biopsy specimen.

After care advice.

- If possible arrange for someone to collect you from hospital.

The next day, you may:

- Have a bath or shower, removing any plasters.

Please contact your GP (home doctor) if:

- There is unusual redness, swelling or bleeding at the biopsy site.
- Your temperature is 38° C (100.4F) or greater.
- You experience pain that is not relieved with paracetamol.

Follow up.

Your referring Consultant or a member of their team will see you in clinic approximately two to four weeks after the procedure.

What are the risks and complications?

There are generally no significant complications with this procedure, though you may experience some tenderness or bruising over the needle insertion site.

Occasionally, despite taking every possible care, the piece of tissue obtained may not be enough for the Pathologist to make a definite diagnosis. In these cases it may be necessary to repeat the procedure.

Finally...

We hope that you have found this booklet useful. If you have any questions or you are worried about anything, please contact your family doctor (GP) or:

Radiology Sister 01305 255276

You can also contact NHS Direct 24 hours a day on 0845 46 47 or www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk

If you have any concerns or issues about your treatment which have not been answered by the Radiology Department, please contact our Patient Advice Liaison Service (PALS) on free phone 0800 7838058 or pals@dchft.nhs.uk

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Information Booklet: Fine Needle Aspiration Biopsy

Getting feedback from our patients is important. Your answers can help us to monitor the information we give you, to ensure it meets a high and consistent standard at all times.

Could you take a few moments to complete this form, all responses are in confidence. Thank you – your time is very much appreciated.

Did you find this booklet useful? Yes No

Did it contain the type of information you wanted? Yes No

Would you have liked more or less information? Yes No

Is there anything else you would like to know? Yes No

If yes, please tell us:.....
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Your comments:.....
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Please return this completed form to:

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