



Diagnostic Imaging

Fine Needle Aspiration Biopsy

Information for patients undergoing a Fine Needle Aspiration Biopsy (FNA)

This leaflet 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 need to be stopped prior to the examination. Please discuss this with your referring doctor. There is no need to stop taking aspirin.

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 area and determine the best position to place the needle by using the ultrasound machine. The Radiologist may take several samples; a small plaster will 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?

A local anaesthetic is not usually required for a fine needle aspiration, as the procedure should not be painful. If you do experience some discomfort please inform the Radiologist.

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. When you have fully recovered you will be able to be discharged.

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
- 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 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 is not from the affected area, or it may not be enough for the Pathologist to make a definite diagnosis. In these cases it may be necessary to repeat the procedure.

Consent

Informed consent will be obtained prior to the procedure. Staff will explain all the risks, benefits and alternatives before asking you to sign a consent form. If you are unsure about any aspect of the treatment proposed, please do not hesitate to speak with a senior member of staff

Finally

We hope that you have found this leaflet useful. If you have any questions or you are worried about anything please discuss it with your referring consultant, your family doctor (GP) or:

- Radiology Sister – 01305 255276

Make sure you are satisfied that you have received enough information about the procedure, before you sign the consent form.

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

About this leaflet:

Author: Radiography Sister, Nicky Perkins
Written: August 2018
Approved: August 2018
Review date: August 2021
Edition: v2

If you have feedback regarding the accuracy of the information contained in this leaflet, or if you would like a list of references used to develop this leaflet, please email 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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