

## **Image guided percutaneous liver biopsy**

### ***What is it?***

A liver biopsy is a procedure in which a tissue sample from the liver is removed for examination under a microscope to look for signs of cancer or other abnormalities. The procedure will be performed by a doctor (radiologist) using either ultrasound or CT guidance.

### ***Before the procedure***

Your doctor will explain the procedure to you and answer any questions that you may have about the procedure. Risks include, but are not limited to, the following: bleeding, infection, discomfort/bruising at the biopsy site, collapsed lung and damage to adjacent tissues/organs, including the bowel. Most complications require only additional observation, although administration of fluid, medications or blood products may be needed. Rarely, surgery could be needed if a life-threatening complication is encountered.

Liver biopsy may be contraindicated in patients with bleeding disorders or active infection.

You will be asked to sign a consent giving permission to undergo the procedure.

Inform the doctor if you have any drug allergies, a known bleeding disorder or if you take an anticoagulant (blood thinner), aspirin, ibuprofen, or any other medication that may affect blood clotting. In most cases, these medications may need to be temporarily discontinued prior to undergoing this procedure. Additional lab work may be required in order to verify your blood is not too thin.

Do not eat or drink anything after midnight prior to procedure. Please make sure someone is available to drive you home if the procedure is done on an outpatient basis as it may necessary to give you a sedative or other medications during the procedure.

### ***During the procedure***

We will attempt to make you as comfortable as possible for the procedure. You may have to lie in the same position for up to an hour.

Your skin will be cleaned with an antiseptic solution then draped to create a sterile field. Local anesthetic (e.g. lidocaine) will be used to numb the skin and soft tissue. This may cause a brief stinging sensation.

A needle will be inserted through the numbed area and into the liver. The biopsy may be performed through an introducer needle, depending on the reason for the biopsy; generally 1-4 samples are acquired. You will likely have to follow specific breathing instructions during the biopsy.

Once adequate specimens have been acquired, the biopsy needle will be removed. Pressure will be applied at the site until bleeding has stopped, and then a bandage will be placed at the site. Occasionally, a gelfoam slurry may be administered through the introducer needle in an attempt to limit bleeding.

***After the procedure***

You will be monitored closely for 2-3 hours in a bed on the floor prior to being considered for discharge (if this is done as an outpatient). You will need to lie with the biopsied side down to help prevent bleeding at the site. Your vital signs will be monitored closely during this time. Please report any shortness of breath, chest or abdominal pain, or other symptoms you feel may be related to today's biopsy to your nurse.

Once you are medically cleared for discharge after the biopsy, please make sure someone is available to drive you home.

The biopsy site may be sore for several days after the procedure. Take a pain reliever for the soreness as recommended by your regular doctor; acetaminophen (Tylenol) is a good over the counter option. Aspirin and certain other pain relievers could increase the risk of bleeding. Be sure to only take medications approved by your doctor.

Avoid strenuous activity and heavy lifting for at least 3 days.

If you discontinued a blood thinner prior to undergoing this procedure, please contact the doctor who sent you for this study to determine when you can safely resume taking this specific medication.

Notify your doctor or report to the ER if you experience any of the following:

- ❖ Fever and/or chills
- ❖ Redness, swelling, draining, or bleeding at the procedure site
- ❖ Worsening pain at the procedure site or elsewhere
- ❖ Chest pain, shortness of breath and/or difficulty breathing

***If you have any questions before and following your procedure call the Radiology nurse at 662-293-1404***

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Patient Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Witness)