

Biopsy

What is a biopsy?

A biopsy is a procedure in which samples of tissue are taken through a needle.

Preparation

Generally no preparation is required. You will be advised if otherwise.

If you take blood thinners such as Warfarin or Aspirin you may need to stop this medication prior to the procedure. Please discuss this with your doctor and inform us when you make your appointment.

Procedure

You may be asked to sign a consent form depending on the type of biopsy required.

You may be required to have a CT (Computed Tomography) scan and, depending on the area of the biopsy, you may have an IV (intravenous catheter) connected on the day of your procedure.

You may be attached to a monitor so that IV medications can be given to relax you. An area of skin will be cleaned with an antiseptic.

The radiologist will inject a local anaesthetic to numb the skin, and insert a needle to obtain some tissue. Three or four samples of tissue may be taken.

The sample(s) will be sent to Pathology for study. You should get your results within 2 to 4 days.

Depending on the area biopsied you may be required to have an x-ray immediately after the biopsy. You will then be observed in our department for up to 4 hours.

Please bring any previous x-rays with you on the day of your examination.