

CT Guided Lung Biopsy

Respiratory



Date and time of biopsy:

Admission location:

Nil by mouth instructions:

Why have I been advised to have this investigation?

Your consultant has requested that you have a needle biopsy to help identify the cause of the shadow on your chest x-ray. The purpose of this procedure is to obtain a small sample of lung tissue for analysis in the pathology laboratory. This type of biopsy is usually successful in determining whether the shadow on the chest x-ray is due to a lung cancer. However, a negative biopsy will not necessarily exclude this possibility.

Where will this be done and what arrangements do I need to do?

The procedure will be performed in the radiology department at the Grange University Hospital or Royal Gwent Hospital. The procedure will be performed in the CT department by a radiologist. In some cases, patients may need a short stay in hospital after the biopsy. You should attend the appointment with someone else who should drive you home after the test. Public transport should be avoided to get back home after the biopsy, with a taxi or other privately arranged transport recommended. There must be someone to stay with you overnight. Please bring an overnight bag with you in case you need to stay.

Can I eat and drink before the tests?

You should have nothing to eat for 4 hours prior to the procedure and then only water for up to 2 hours before your appointment time.

Do I take my tablets on the day of the test?

Yes, generally. The doctors you saw in clinic will have checked your medications with you. Please ask if you are to take them. You should not be taking Warfarin, Heparin or newer blood thinners (e.g. Apixaban). We may need to arrange a blood test (INR) before the procedure if you are taking Warfarin. If you take a drug called Clopidogrel, this should generally be stopped 7 days prior to the biopsy.

What does this involve?

The procedure involves cleaning the skin, injecting a small amount of local anaesthetic and then introducing a small biopsy needle into the required part of the lung. The needle may have to be introduced more than once. Once a satisfactory sample has been obtained, you will return to the ward / day surgery unit to be monitored for a minimum of 4 hours.

Are there any complications?

This is usually straightforward, but complications can occur.

1. A small number of patients develop a collapse of the lung caused by a leakage of air from the lung into the chest (a pneumothorax). This will normally be detected on the chest x-ray prior to your discharge from hospital. In most cases no treatment is required, although you may be advised to remain in hospital overnight for further observation. Very occasionally if the pneumothorax is large or you have symptoms, you may require treatment. This may involve inserting a small drainage tube into the chest and a short stay in hospital or a smaller tube (vent) may be inserted into the chest which you can have in place to go home and then return to the ward the next day for review.

2. It is common to cough up blood after the procedure. This normally resolves without treatment and will not necessarily delay your discharge from hospital. Severe bleeding is a very rare event.

What can I do when I get home?

You should rest for the next 24 hours. Heavy straining and lifting should be avoided for 48 hours. If there is any discomfort from the biopsy site, a mild painkiller like Paracetamol may be taken. You can remove the small plaster 24 hours after the biopsy was performed.

If you cough up more than a few teaspoons of blood then you should attend the Grange University Hospital Accident and Emergency Department. Also, if you become more breathless than normal, or experience severe chest pain within 24- 48 hours of returning home then you must go to the Grange University Hospital Accident and Emergency Department.

You will be contacted within two weeks to return to your Doctor for results.

Contact Numbers:-

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