



Fine Needle Aspiration Biopsy

Patients referred for a Needle Biopsy are often uncertain of what is involved.

This brochure gives a brief explanation of the procedure. If you have further questions, do not hesitate to ask your doctor, or the Healthscope doctor who will carry out the biopsy procedure.

THE SUPERFICIAL NEEDLE BIOPSY

A Needle Biopsy is a simple way to help determine the nature of any lump that you or your doctor can feel. It is also useful in assessing certain abnormalities demonstrated by various imaging methods such as X-rays and scans. A tiny sample of cells is obtained from the lump with a fine needle inserted through the skin (sometimes suction is applied to the needle by a syringe). The needle is similar to that used for injections, however it is thinner than that used to collect blood.

TAKING THE BIOPSY

No preparation for a superficial biopsy is required. Applying a local anaesthetic is usually more painful than the procedure itself. The needle is in the tissue for less than 30 seconds. The entire consultation with the specialist pathologist takes approximately 10-15 minutes. Further samples are sometimes necessary.

DEEP NEEDLE BIOPSIES

These are biopsies taken from organs or tissues such as the lung, liver, kidney or lymph node and usually require guidance by X-ray or scans. The procedure is often performed in a hospital radiology department, therefore you would receive detailed information prior to the appointment.

EFFECTS OF THE SUPERFICIAL BIOPSY

Generally no after effects are experienced from Needle Biopsy of superficial lumps, such as breast, thyroid or lymph glands. Occasionally some transient soreness and/or bruising may be experienced. If you have any other concerns please contact your referring doctor. More than 40 years of experience worldwide has shown that this procedure in general has no harmful effects on the disease process, whatever its nature.

RESULTS OF THE BIOPSY

Results are routinely available within 24-48 hours and will be forwarded to your doctor, or the doctor who referred you for the biopsy. Because the sample is very small, Fine Needle Aspiration Biopsy sometimes does not permit a definite diagnosis and further biopsies may be necessary.

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact our Customer Service Centre.

1300 453 688

Providing services since 1936, Healthscope Pathology operates throughout Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and Malaysia.

Healthscope Pathology has purpose built, state-of-the-art service and molecular research laboratories which ensure the highest standard of testing.

focused on you

healthscopepathology.com.au

HPG-1048-W-001 (06/10)
Clinical Laboratories Pty Ltd ABN 62 006 823 089