



## **Imaging Department**

### **Thyroid Fine Needle Aspiration with Ultrasound Guidance**

Your doctor has ordered an ultrasound guided Thyroid biopsy for you. This procedure involves using a small needle to remove tiny bits of tissue from the thyroid gland. Ultrasound imaging is used simultaneously to guide the needle to the correct area during the biopsy. There are a few things you should know before you arrive to the Ultrasound department.

#### **PREPARATION:**

- 1) A complete thyroid ultrasound examination must be done within the last three months before this biopsy.
- 2) You must be off blood thinners and anti-platelet medications for 5-7 days before this procedure. The radiologist will review exceptions to this on a patient-by-patient basis.
- 3) You need to eat very lightly or not at all before your exam.
- 4) You will need to sign a consent form before your procedure.

**BEFORE THE PROCEDURE:** For your safety, you will be asked a number of questions by the sonographer, nurse, and/or radiologist. Possible questions include, but are not limited to:

- What kind of symptoms are you having?
- Any previous surgeries?
- Any medical allergies and any pertinent medical history?
- Prescription medications you're taking?

#### **THE PROCEDURE:**

- 1) The ultrasound technologist will ask you about your medical history. The radiologist will go over the biopsy and any complications that should arise.
- 2) You will need to lie on your back for 30-45 minutes.
- 3) You will need change into a gown to expose your neck area, allow access to your thyroid, and keep any personal clothing from becoming soiled during the biopsy.
- 4) The radiologist will scan and cleanse/sterilize the area. For your comfort, numbing medicine is injected. The radiologist will then introduce a small needle into the thyroid/neck area to take several tissue specimens. There is some discomfort/pressure, but it should be tolerable.
- 5) The radiologist will have the pathologist in the room to analyze the specimens that are obtained, so they can be sure there are enough quality samples for diagnosis.

**AFTER THE PROCEDURE:** There are no restrictions from the Ultrasound Department after your biopsy.

**RESULTS:** The radiologist will study your case and images, and will dictate a report which will be transcribed for your ordering physician to review and discuss with you. Your sonographer is unable to give any report at the time of testing. Pathology results usually take 48 business hours to be faxed to your physician's office.

Every effort will be made to make you as comfortable as possible during your procedure. If you have any questions or concerns, please direct them to the imaging staff at (574) 364-2819.