

Liver Biopsy with Ultrasound Guidance

Your doctor has ordered an Ultrasound-Guided Liver Biopsy for you. This procedure involves the removal of tiny bits of tissue from the liver. Ultrasound imaging is used for your safety to guide the needle and reduce the possibility of complications. There are a few things you should know before you arrive to the Ultrasound department.

PREPARATION:

- 1) You will need someone to drive you home after the biopsy.
- 2) You'll need to have lab/blood work (PT, INR, PTT and platelets) before your biopsy.
- 3) You *must be off any blood thinners and/or anti-platelet medications for 5-7 days* before the procedure. The radiologist will review exceptions to this on a patient-by-patient basis.
- 4) After midnight on the day of your exam, do not eat, drink, chew gum, or smoke to prevent the gastrointestinal system from producing gas (which interferes with the procedure).
- 5) This procedure should be scheduled before any barium study.
- 6) You will need to sign a consent form before the procedure.

BEFORE THE TEST: 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 or medical allergies?
- Any pertinent medical history and prescription medications you're on?

THE PROCEDURE:

- 1) The imaging nurse will take your vital signs. The imaging staff will go over the procedure and any complications that should arise.
- 2) You will need to lie on your back for 60-90 minutes.
- 3) You will need to expose your abdomen to allow access to your liver.
- 4) The radiologist will scan the area. Then he/she will cleanse/sterilize that area to inject numbing medicine for your comfort. The radiologist will then introduce a needle into that area and take several tissue specimens. There is some discomfort/pressure, but it should be tolerable.
- 5) The removed tissue specimen will be taken to pathology for testing.

AFTER YOUR PROCEDURE: You will be returned to your Day Surgery room. You will be observed in your room for about 3-4 hours after your biopsy. You will need to lie on your back for an hour after your biopsy, to help ensure that no complications arise after your biopsy. Then after that hour, you should be able to sit up and move around. You will be restricted from driving, operating heavy machinery, consuming alcohol and making legal decisions for the remainder of that day.

RESULTS: The radiologist will study your images and review your case. A report will be dictated and transcribed for your ordering physician to review and discuss with you. Pathology results are usually available within 24-48 business hours. Your sonographer is unable to give any results at the time of the procedure.

If you have any questions or concerns, please direct them to the Imaging Department at (574) 364-2819.