About Your Ultrasound/CT-Guided Fine Needle Aspiration/Biopsy

What is an ultrasound or CT biopsy?
An ultrasound is a way to look at internal organs and tissue by using sound waves. The sound waves are sent into your body by a transducer that the technologist moves across your skin. When the sound waves come in contact with the body, the image is made on the ultrasound machine. No dye or X-ray is used with ultrasound.

A computed tomography (CT) study uses special X-rays and sometimes dye to see the organs or tissues.

Your doctor will decide which test is best for you.

A biopsy is the removal of tissue to check for infection, cancer or other diseases. If you have a biopsy, the doctor doing the test will numb your skin.

Where it is performed
An ultrasound or CT-guided needle aspiration or biopsy is done in the radiology (X-ray) area.

Before your test
• Do not take any aspirin or blood-thinner products before the test. Follow your doctor’s instructions.
• Your doctor may want you to have a blood test to make sure your blood is not too thin.
• Wear comfortable clothing to the hospital.
• Please leave personal items and valuables at home.
• You may need a ride home from the hospital after your biopsy. You will be told if you need a ride when your test is scheduled.
• Before your test begins, the doctor will talk to you about the test and answer any questions you may have.
• Depending upon what type of biopsy you have, you may have an IV started.
• Let the person doing your test know if you are or think you could be pregnant.

After the test
• You will have a bandage over the biopsy site.
• You may be monitored by a nurse for a period of time after the test depending upon what type of biopsy you have.

Wound care at home
Follow the instructions given to you by your doctor.

Pain
• You may have some tenderness and bruising around the biopsy site. This is normal and will get better with time.
• You may apply ice to the biopsy site for 20 minutes on and 20 minutes off to increase comfort. Do not put the ice directly on your skin.
• You may take acetaminophen (Tylenol) or your prescription medication for pain. Follow directions as told on the bottle.

Call your doctor if any of the following occurs
• You have pain that is not relieved by pain medication.
• You have signs of an infection, such as a temperature over 101° F, drainage, redness or swelling around the biopsy site.
• You have active bleeding that does not stop after applying pressure to the area for 15 minutes.
• You have any problems that require medical attention, such as shortness of breath.

If you feel you are having a medical emergency, call 911 or go to the closest emergency room.

The information presented is intended for general information and educational purposes. It is not intended to replace the advice of your health care provider. Contact your health care provider if you believe you have a health problem.