



CT Biopsy

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Diagnostic Imaging
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Exam Information

Diagnostic Imaging

What is a CT biopsy exam?

Biopsies are done on nodules or abnormalities that have been detected with imaging. The nature of nodules cannot be determined by imaging alone. CT scans are specialized x-ray exams that are done using sophisticated computers to create cross-sectional images of your body. These images help guide the radiologist as they position a biopsy needle where tissue or cells can be collected and sent to the lab for further evaluation.

How is the exam performed?

Before the exam begins, the radiologist will discuss the procedure with you and answer any questions you may have.

Depending on the biopsy site, you may be lying on your back, side or stomach on a padded table. The technologist will position you for your exam using pillows if necessary to make you comfortable. If needed, you may have some CT images taken before the biopsy procedure.

If you are having intravenous (IV) contrast media, the technologist will place an IV needle in your arm.

The first scan is done to help determine the site of the biopsy. Your skin will be cleaned and local anesthetic will be injected to numb the area being biopsied.

Next, the radiologist will insert the needle for the biopsy. The needle's position will need to be adjusted until it is in the correct area. Each time it is repositioned a CT image is taken. This process will be repeated until enough tissue is collected.

You will return to the Day Surgery department for observation.

How should I prepare for the exam?

Bring a copy of the order written by your doctor. If you are allergic to x-ray contrast tell your doctor or the technologist before the scan. Bring a list of your current medications.

- **You will need a lab test before your exam to assure that your blood is clotting normally.**
- Do not eat any solid foods for 4 hours prior to your exam time. You may take your daily medications.
- Arrive 90 minutes before your exam time, register and report to the Day Surgery department.
- You will need a ride home after the procedure.
- Dress in comfortable clothes. Try to wear clothing without metal (such as belt buckles, underwire bras etc.) If this is not possible, a gown will be provided for your exam.

What will I feel during the exam?

IV contrast media, upon injection, sometimes gives patients a warm feeling all over and you may notice a metallic taste or smell. These sensations last only a minute or two.

The injection of local anesthetic will sting momentarily. You will feel pressure when the biopsy needle is inserted. Repositioning of the biopsy needle can cause a sharp pain.

Who interprets the exam and when will I get my results?

After the exam, a physician who is specially trained to evaluate tissue and cells will review your biopsy sample and send a written report to the physician that ordered the exam for you. That physician will then contact you with your results.