

CT-Guided Needle Lung Biopsy

A CT-guided needle lung biopsy uses a CT scanner to help guide the radiologist to obtain a sample of an abnormal area in your lung. The sample will be taken and sent to pathology. This is an outpatient procedure that requires a stay of 4-6 hours. The procedure is performed in the Radiology Department.

The final pathology report should be available within 5 business days. Your healthcare team will review the report with you when you return for your follow-up visit.

How do I Prepare for the Procedure?

Some over-the-counter and prescription medicines can interfere with normal blood clotting and increase the risk of bleeding. Please review the attached ‘**Medicine Checklist Before Your Procedure**’ document with your healthcare team to help determine when to stop taking certain medicines prior to your surgery. **Do not stop taking any medicines without talking to your healthcare team.**

- **Note: Important! Do not** eat or drink anything after midnight on the night **before** the procedure. This includes water, gum, candy, coffee, and juice.
- If you have diabetes and take medicine to control your blood sugar, talk to your healthcare team **before** the day of your procedure.

What Can I Expect the Day of the Procedure?

- You will have an intravenous (IV) line placed in a vein, usually in your arm, before the procedure.
- You may receive IV medicine for sedation or to help with anxiety or discomfort.
- You will have a CT scan and be on the CT scan table for approximately 1 hour.
- A small area on your chest will be numbed with medicine. Once numb, a needle will be inserted into the area to get a sample of tissue.

What Can I Expect After the Procedure?

- You will be watched for 3-4 hours after your procedure.
- A chest x-ray will be taken after your procedure to make sure your lung has not collapsed.
- If the lung has collapsed, there is a chance you may need a small tube placed into the chest cavity to re-expand your lung.
- You may eat immediately after your procedure. If the x-ray shows your lung has collapsed, eating may be delayed 2-4 hours.
- You may have mild tenderness and swelling at the procedure site.
- You should rest the remainder of the day after your procedure.
- You may restart all of your medicines unless otherwise directed.
- You will be seen for a follow-up visit 1 week after your procedure.
- Avoid heavy lifting, exercise, or any activity that will cause you to be out of breath for 3-5 days after your procedure.

When Should I Call My Healthcare Team?

Please call immediately if you have:

- Increased shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Heart palpitations or chest pain
- Temperature of 100.5°F (38°C) degrees or higher
- Coughing up blood (if more than one teaspoon)
- Redness, heat, increased swelling or drainage at the procedure site

If you are in need of immediate assistance, please call 732-235-2465 and select the option that best meets your needs.