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

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

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