



PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET LIVER BIOPSY

You are scheduled to undergo a liver biopsy. This is done by passing a thin needle through the skin between the ribs on the right side of your body. This allows the doctor to obtain a 1 to 2- inch long, thin piece of liver tissue to examine under the microscope. **It is important to be fasting six hours prior to this procedure.**

On the morning of the test, you may or may not be admitted to the hospital. Before the test, your blood pressure and pulse will be checked. If you are in the hospital, the biopsy will be performed in your hospital room. A local anesthetic will be injected into the skin and tissues through which the biopsy needle will be passed. In addition, a small IV catheter may be put into a vein in your arm or hand so that medicine to relax you can be given.

Once the area through which the biopsy will be obtained has been numbed and prepared, the doctor will instruct you on how to breathe. While you are holding your breath, the doctor will pass the needle through the skin and between the ribs, then into the liver to obtain a piece of tissue. This passage of the needle takes approximately one second and is usually not uncomfortable, although transient pain may be felt in the stomach area, on the right side of the body, and/or in the right shoulder area. These biopsies are then sent to the laboratory for microscopic examination. You will be asked to lie on your right side for approximately one hour after the procedure, and to remain on your back for the remainder of the day. You will be allowed to get up to use the bathroom or sit up to eat, otherwise, you will be asked to lie quietly on your back in bed for the remainder of the day.

The doctor's office will call you with the biopsy pathology result when it becomes available (several days). Your primary care physician will also receive a report of the procedure.

Possible complications from this test include abdominal pain or cramping, shoulder pain, nausea, and/or vomiting. In addition, more serious complications can occur. These include, but are not limited to, perforation (making a hole in) or tears of the intestinal tract or kidney which can occur in 1/1000 biopsies; bleeding which can occur in 1/500 biopsies, leakage of bile from the liver which can occur in 1/500 biopsies; and death, which is rare, occurring in less than 1/5000 biopsies. If any of these complications occur, then hospitalization, blood transfusions, and/or surgery may be necessary.

Any questions you may have about the examination or its possible complications should be discussed with the doctor before the examination begins.

PLEASE NOTE If you take Coumadin or other drugs which affect blood clotting (aspirin, ibuprofen, or other anti-inflammatory agents), please notify our office at least one week before your scheduled procedure; otherwise the procedure may have to be cancelled and rescheduled.

Patient's Signature

Date