

ASCENSION ST VINCENTS

BONE MARROW & BONE LESION BIOPSY PATIENT HANDOUT

Radiologist who performed your procedure:

Bone Marrow Biopsy Procedure Description:

- An image-guided bone marrow biopsy is performed to obtain samples of bone marrow and small pieces of bone to help diagnose or monitor blood disorders, infections, or cancers.
- During the procedure, a radiologist uses CT or X-ray imaging to precisely target the lesion. The skin is cleaned with antiseptic, and local anesthetic is used to numb the area. A special biopsy needle is then inserted into the bone to obtain a liquid bone marrow sample and a solid piece of bone. These samples are sent to the laboratory for testing.
- The procedure usually takes about 15-30 minutes. You will then be observed for period of time to monitor for any complications.
- Most outpatients go home the same day; however, some patients may be kept in the hospital overnight or, rarely, longer.
- Inpatients remain in the hospital until their other medical conditions are adequately addressed.

Bone Lesion Biopsy Procedure Description:

- An image-guided bone lesion biopsy or aspiration is performed to obtain a sample from a bone lesion identified on imaging.
- During the procedure, a radiologist uses CT, ultrasound, or X-ray imaging to precisely target the lesion. The skin is cleaned with antiseptic, and local anesthetic is used to numb the area. A special biopsy needle is then inserted into the bone lesion to obtain several tissue samples from the lesion. These samples are sent to the laboratory for testing.
- The procedure usually takes about 30-60 minutes (sometimes longer). You will then be observed for period of time to monitor for any complications.
- Most outpatients go home the same day; however, some patients may be kept in the hospital overnight or, rarely, longer.
- Inpatients remain in the hospital until their other medical conditions are adequately addressed.

Benefits:

- Imaging allows the radiologist to precisely target the biopsy site.
- Provides a minimally invasive way to obtain bone marrow or bone tissue for diagnosis.
- Helps diagnose or monitor blood disorders, infections, and cancers.
- Uses small needles and usually does not require stitches.
- May avoid the need for more invasive surgical biopsy procedures.
- Most patients tolerate the procedure well and return to normal activities shortly afterward.

Risks & Potential Complications:

- The following list includes some, but not all, possible complications.
- Pain is common but usually mild, typically resolves within a few days, and can be managed with over-the-counter pain medication. Severe pain can occur but is uncommon.
- Minor bleeding is common and usually does not require medical treatment. Any resulting bruising typically resolves on its own over several days. Serious bleeding that requires medical treatment (such as hospital admission, blood transfusion, or an additional procedure or surgery) can occur but is uncommon.
- Infection can occur but is uncommon. Most infections are mild and can be treated with antibiotics.
- Injury to nearby organs, bowel, blood vessels, or nerves can occur but is uncommon.
- Fracture of the bone at the biopsy site can occur but is rare.
- Inaccurate or inconclusive results can occur. This may include results showing no cancer when cancer is present or suggesting cancer when it is not. In some cases, a repeat procedure or surgical biopsy may be needed.
- Feeling faint or lightheaded (a vasovagal reaction) can occur during or after the procedure. This is usually mild and resolves quickly.
- Allergic reactions to the local anesthetic, topical antiseptic or other medications are uncommon.
- Death can occur but is rare.

Alternatives:

- Surgical biopsy, which is more invasive and involves stitches and a longer recovery.
- Clinical observation with follow-up imaging or blood tests in select cases.
- Medical management alone, depending on the suspected condition.
- Some patients choose no further evaluation; however, this carries the risk of delayed diagnosis or missed disease and is generally not recommended.

Aftercare:

- A bandage will be applied over the procedure site. You may remove the bandages 24 hours after your procedure. Skin glue may also be applied. Do not pick off the glue—allow it to flake off on its own over several days.
- You may shower and allow water to flow over the site 24 hours after your procedure; however, do not submerge the site in water (bath, pool, hot tub, or ocean) until it has healed.
- If you were provided with an ice pack, apply it to the site periodically for 15–30 minutes after your procedure.
- Do not apply lotion or ointment to the site until it has healed unless instructed to do so.
- Avoid strenuous physical activity for at least 1 week after your procedure. Then gradually increase your activity level as tolerated.
- It is normal to experience mild pain and bruising after your procedure. You may take acetaminophen (Tylenol), aspirin, ibuprofen (Motrin), or naproxen (Aleve) for relief. It is safe to take aspirin, ibuprofen, or naproxen soon after your procedure; however, you may experience increased bruising if you do so.
- Contact Radiology, your ordering provider, or your nurse if you have any concerns or experience any of the following: severe pain not responding to medications; significant pain or swelling at the procedure site; signs of possible infection (significant redness or purulent drainage from the procedure site, severe pain, or high fever); shortness of breath and/or chest pain worse than normal for you; dizziness or lightheadedness when standing; or a faster-than-normal heart rate. Call 911 in the event of an emergency.

- Weekdays 8 am to 5 pm call 308-8401 (Riverside), 296-3886 (Southside), 602-1360 (Clay) or 691-1297 (St Johns). Weekdays 5 pm to 10 pm or weekends 6 am to 10 pm call 308-8401. If outside of these hours, call the hospital operator at 308-7300 and ask to speak to the Interventional Radiologist on call.

How Do I Receive Procedure Results?

- Biopsy results are typically available within 5 business days (sometimes longer).
- Please contact your ordering provider's office to obtain results and for follow-up instructions.