Radiology Department

CT Guided Lung Biopsy

Why do I need a lung biopsy?

Your consultant has decided you need a lung biopsy. This leaflet is to answer some of the queries you may have about the procedure.

What is a CT guided lung biopsy?

Lung biopsy is a procedure performed by a radiologist (doctor specialising in x-rays).

A CT (computerised tomography) scan is performed to help the doctor place a special biopsy needle into the lung to obtain a sample of tissue, using local anaesthetic. This tissue is then sent to the pathology department to be examined under a microscope. In most, but not all cases, the sample gives results which will allow your consultant to be more certain of your diagnosis and plan further treatment.

Before your procedure

You will be contacted with a date and time to attend for your biopsy, with information about which hospital the procedure will be performed at.

Please be advised that it is not recommended that you take any flights for one week following your biopsy. If you do have travel plans in the week following your appointment please let us know so we can rearrange the test.

A blood test is necessary before the biopsy. This can be done a few days in advance, but occasionally may be on the day of your procedure.

If you are taking Warfarin, Clopidogrel, Aspirin or any other "blood thinning" medication, and have not been given special instructions regarding stopping them, please telephone the X-ray department.

The day of your procedure

You should not drive yourself to the hospital as you will not be able to drive home.

Please bring your current medications and, an overnight bag in case you need to stay overnight.

Please report to the reception desk in the X-ray Department.

If your biopsy is to be performed at Huddersfield Royal Infirmary, X-ray is on the lower ground floor.

If you have been asked to attend the Calderdale Royal Hospital, X-ray is on the first floor.

On arrival a nurse will take you to the X-ray Day Case Unit, and prepare you for the procedure. This will include changing into a hospital gown, taking your pulse and blood pressure, and inserting a cannula (small plastic tube) into a vein in your arm or hand. This allows us to give any necessary medication during the procedure.

Staff will be able to answer any questions you may have, and you will need to sign a consent form to enable the procedure to go ahead if you have not already done so.

compassionate care

The procedure

The doctor performing the biopsy will further explain the procedure and answer any last minute questions you may have.

You will need to lie on the CT scanner table in the most appropriate position, which may be either on your front, back or side.

Occasionally patients need to be given oxygen during and after the procedure.

A CT scan of your lung will be performed to identify the area needed to take the biopsy. This is completely painless. Once this is identified, your skin will be marked and cleaned with an antiseptic solution, then covered with a sterile towel to minimise the risk of infection.

Local anaesthetic will be injected under the skin. This may sting for a few seconds and then the area will go numb. The biopsy needle will be inserted, and a CT scan will be done to check the needle position.

Samples of tissue can then be taken.

The procedure can be a little uncomfortable but is not usually painful.

At the end of the procedure, the needle is removed, and a small dressing will be applied.

A further CT scan will then be performed to check for any complications.

Most people do not suffer any serious side effects following lung biopsy; however there are some risks you need to know about:

You may cough up blood during or following the procedure.

You may feel a little short of breath.

Occasionally you may develop an air leak, (pneumothorax), which can cause your lung to collapse. If your post procedure CT scan shows only a small leak, and is the same size or smaller on your follow-up chest scan, you will probably be discharged. The doctor may ask you to attend for a further chest x-ray a few days later, which he/she will review to make sure the lung has re-expanded and requires no further intervention.

A large air leak may require insertion of a chest drain. This is a tube which will need to be inserted into your chest to help re-inflate the lung, and you will need to stay in hospital for a few days.

Following your biopsy

You will be transferred on a trolley to the X-ray Day Case Unit, accompanied by a nurse. Your condition will be monitored and you will need to stay in bed although you can sit up, and eat and drink.

If you become breathless or have any chest pain you should inform the nursing staff.

After approximately 1 hour you will be taken for a further CT chest scan. When this has been checked and providing you have remained well, you will be able to get up and go home.

Discharge home

You will need to be collected from hospital and driven home.

You must have a responsible adult to be with you overnight.

You are advised to avoid heavy activities e.g. lifting, housework, and gardening for one week. You should also refrain from driving for at least 24 hours or longer if you feel this is necessary. Pain relief (analgesia) tablets such as Paracetamol, should relieve any discomfort. If taking any other forms of analgesia, these must not contain Aspirin.

You may cough up a little blood after you go home. This should steadily improve and stop. If it gets worse you should go to the Emergency Department at either of our main hospital sites.
Your radiologist will have explained any other symptoms to look out for after discharge.

If you need any further information, contact a member of the nursing or CT Radiography team in the X ray Department:

Huddersfield Royal Infirmary - 01484 345781 / 342923
Calderdale Royal Hospital - 01422 224525

If you are a patient of a Lung Cancer Specialist Nurse you can contact them on 01484 347145
You can also contact your consultant via his/her secretary.

If you have any comments about this leaflet or the service you have received you can contact :

Service Lead Radiology
Huddersfield Royal Infirmary

Telephone No: 01484 342500

www.cht.nhs.uk

If you would like this information in another format or language contact the above.

Potřebujete-li tyto informace v jiném formátu nebo jazyce, obraťte se prosím na výše uvedené oddělení

Jeżeli są Państwo zainteresowani otrzymaniem tych informacji w innym formacie lub wersji językowej, prosimy skontaktować się z nami, korzystając z ww. danych kontaktowych

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਸ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਬਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਪਾਰੂਪ ਜਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਲੈਣਾ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ, ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਉਪਰੋਕਤ ਵਿਭਾਗ ਵਿੱਚ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی اور فارمیٹ یا زبان میں درکار ہوں، تو
برائے مہربانی مندرجہ بالا شعبے میں ہم سے رابطہ کریں.

"إذا احتجت الحصول على هذه المعلومة بشكل مغاير أو مترجمة إلى لغة مختلفة فيرجى منك الاتصال بالقسم المذكور أعلاه"