

# A guide to your CT guided bone biopsy



Turnberg Building  
Radiology 1  
0161 206 2206



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This booklet tells you about the procedure known as CT guided bone biopsy.

It explains what is involved and what the possible risks are.

We hope you find this information helpful, but you should still discuss any concerns you may have with your doctor before you sign the consent form.

## What is a CT guided biopsy and why do I need one?

An image guided biopsy is a test during which a special needle is passed through the skin to take a tiny sample of bone or other tissue from an area inside the body.

The doctor will use a CT scan to guide the needle to the abnormal tissue. The sample is then looked at under the microscope for a diagnosis.

Other scans have shown an abnormal tissue inside your body; but it is not always possible to say exactly what the abnormality is. The biopsy will help assess the problem and guide treatment.

## Who has made this decision?

The consultant in charge of your care feels that this is the best way of getting more information about your problem.

We usually plan a biopsy in advance so you have the opportunity to discuss your options with your consultant or her/his team.

Your opinion will be taken into account. If you do not want this procedure, you can decide not to have it at any time, even after signing the consent form.

We will notify your referring doctor of your decision so that they can discuss the options for further treatment with you.

## What are the risks and complications?

An image guided biopsy is a safe procedure and serious complications are rare.

Small risks vary depending on where we take the biopsy from. Despite these small risks your consultant has decided to refer you for this examination.

This is because they feel that the benefits of having the biopsy outweigh the risks of having it done.

Your consultant or one of her/his team will discuss your options with you in advance.

The risks include the following:

- Discomfort or mild pain in the area where the biopsy was taken is possible. This can usually be controlled with painkillers.

- Bleeding is usually minimal and of short duration but more serious bleeding can rarely occur. If the bleeding continues, then it is possible that you might need a blood transfusion. Very rarely, an operation or another procedure is required to stop the bleeding.
- Infection of the skin or deeper tissue is rare.
- Injury of surrounding structures. If the biopsy is from your spine there is a very small risk of damaging the adjacent nerve that comes from the spine close to the biopsy site.

If you have any worries, please do not hesitate to discuss possible complications or risks with hospital staff before your biopsy.

Unfortunately, some biopsies fail to give an answer. In this case, you may need the procedure to be repeated.

## How do I prepare for the biopsy?

If you are not already an inpatient, you may be admitted to the hospital on the day of the procedure.

You will have some blood tests performed beforehand to check that you do not have an increased risk of bleeding.

## Can I eat and drink?

You must **not eat anything for 6 hours** before your biopsy.

You can have a few sips of clear fluid (water, black tea or black coffee) up to 2 hours before the biopsy.

## Can I still take my normal medications?

If you are taking warfarin, aspirin, clopidogrel or other blood thinning medications, please inform your hospital consultant at least one week before your procedure.

Your blood thinning medication will need stopping in advance.

## If you are diabetic

If you are diabetic please contact the:

### Diabetes Centre

Monday to Friday between 8.30am and 12 noon on:

 **0161 206 2095**

Do as soon as you receive this appointment to discuss your diabetes medicines with the Diabetes Specialist Nurses.

You can continue to take any other routine medicines.

Please bring a list of your medications with you to your appointment.

**Failure to follow this advice may result in your appointment being cancelled.**

## What actually happens during a biopsy?

You will be brought to the x-ray department to have your biopsy. The radiologist (the doctor who will do your biopsy) will speak to you beforehand and answer your questions. Please let them know if you are allergic to anything.

The skin over the biopsy site will be cleaned with an antiseptic and covered with a sterile drape.

The procedure will be performed under a local anaesthetic injection and in some cases sedative drugs through a drip.

The local anaesthetic will sting initially, before the skin goes numb.

The sedation is designed to relax you and help manage any pain, but is not an anaesthetic and you will be conscious throughout the procedure.

The doctor will use a CT scan to guide the needle to the abnormal tissue or bone. You will need to stay still. You may feel some minor discomfort or pressure as the biopsy is taken.

The procedure takes approximately 30 to 60 minutes from start to finish.

## After the biopsy

You may be taken back to the ward where you need to rest in bed for a few hours. The nurses will check your blood pressure and pulse regularly to make sure that there are no problems.

Some patients may experience pain following this procedure. Please let the nurses know if you have pain or if you need any painkillers.

You can eat and drink normally unless instructed otherwise by the doctor.

## Going home

If the procedure is being carried out as a day case and there are no complications, you will be allowed home a few hours after the biopsy.

You must not drive or use public transport. You must have an adult to take you home (by car or taxi) and stay with you overnight.

If you live a long distance from a hospital (more than 30 minutes by car); or there is no one to take you home or stay with you overnight, you will have to stay in hospital.

**If you feel unwell or continue to have severe pain, you should seek immediate medical advice (contact your GP or your consultant; or go to your nearest Accident and Emergency department).**

## When will I get the results?

It takes about two weeks for the results to come back. These will be sent to the consultant who asked for you to have the biopsy and they will contact you.

## What if I cannot attend for my appointment?

If you have any questions about your examination or cannot make the appointment, please telephone the help-line on:

 **0161 206 2044**

 **0161 206 2404**

Monday to Friday between 8.30am and to 4.00pm

If you are not able to telephone please contact us via email on:

 **[booking.radiology@srft.nhs.uk](mailto:booking.radiology@srft.nhs.uk)**

Please include your name, address, date of birth and hospital number (if known) on all correspondence.

Please help us to cut our waiting lists. If you need to cancel or change your appointment call us as soon as you can, so that we can give it to another patient.

## Interpreters

If you need an interpreter for your examination and/or procedure (either verbal, non-English language or non-verbal, e.g. British Sign Language, Makaton etc.), please call the department so that we can try to arrange this, or there is information about interpretation services on the back page of this booklet.

## I need an ambulance, how do I arrange this?

If you need an ambulance there are contact details on your appointment letter.

Please inform the department, using the contact details in this booklet, if you are arriving by ambulance.

## Other sources of information

Your questions should have been answered by this booklet, but remember that this is only a starting point for discussion about your treatment with the doctors looking after you.

**Make sure you are satisfied that you have received enough information about the procedure, before you sign the consent form.**

If you require further information about this procedure please contact:

 **0161 206 2206**

 **0161 206 5091**

Further information regarding the examination can be found on the Internet.

## Websites

For general information about radiology departments, visit The Royal College of Radiologists' website:

 **[www.goingfora.com](http://www.goingfora.com)**

 **[www.rcr.ac.uk](http://www.rcr.ac.uk)**

## NHS 111 Service

when its less urgent than 999

 **111**

## NHS Direct

 **[www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk](http://www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk)**

If you require further advice or information about this test please contact the:

 **Radiology Nurse Team,  
Angiography Suite,  
Salford Royal NHS Foundation  
Trust,  
Stott Lane, Salford, M6 8HD**

 **0161 206 2206**

 **0161 206 5091**

In accordance with the Equality Act we will make 'reasonable adjustments' to enable individuals with disabilities, to access this service.

### Finally...

Hopefully some of your questions should have been answered by this booklet but remember that this is only a starting point for discussion about your treatment with the doctors looking after you.

Make sure you are satisfied that you have received enough information about the procedure in advance.

### Notes

A large area for taking notes, consisting of two columns of horizontal dotted lines. The lines are red and spaced evenly down the page.

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Copies of this leaflet are available in other formats (for example, large print or easyread) upon request. Alternative formats may also be available via [www.srft.nhs.uk/for-patients/patient-leaflets/](http://www.srft.nhs.uk/for-patients/patient-leaflets/)

In accordance with the Equality Act we will make reasonable adjustments to enable individuals with disabilities to access this service. Please contact the service/clinic you are attending by phone or email prior to your appointment to discuss your requirements.

Interpreters are available for both verbal and non-verbal (e.g. British Sign Language) languages, on request. Please contact the service/clinic you are visiting to request this.

If you need this information leaflet translated, please telephone:

Polish

Jeżeli potrzebne jest Państwu to tłumaczenie, proszę zadzwonić pod numer.

Urdu

اگر آپ کو اس ترجمانی کی ضرورت ہے تو مہربانی کر کے فون کریں۔

Arabic

إذا كنتم بحاجة إلى تفسير أو ترجمة هذا الرجاء الاتصال

Chinese

如果需要翻译，请拨打电话

Farsi

اگر به ترجمه این نیاز دارید ، لطفاً تلفن کنید

**0161 206 0224**

or Email:

**InterpretationandTrans@srft.nhs.uk**

Under the Human Tissue Act 2004, consent will not be required from living patients from whom tissue has been taken for diagnosis or testing to use any left over tissue for the following purposes: clinical audit, education or training relating to human health, performance assessment, public health monitoring and quality assurance.

If you object to your tissue being used for any of the above purposes, please inform a member of staff immediately.

**Salford Royal operates a smoke-free policy.**

For advice on stopping smoking contact the Hospital Specialist Stop Smoking Service on 0161 206 1779

This is a teaching hospital which plays an important role in the training of future doctors. The part patients play in this process is essential to make sure that we produce the right quality doctors for all of our futures. If at any time you would prefer not to have students present please inform the doctor or nurses and this will not affect your care in anyway.

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Stott Lane, Salford,  
Manchester, M6 8HD  
**Telephone 0161 789 7373**  
[www.srft.nhs.uk](http://www.srft.nhs.uk)

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[www.srft.nhs.uk/for-members](http://www.srft.nhs.uk/for-members)

If you have any suggestions as to how this document could be improved in the future then please visit:  
<http://www.srft.nhs.uk/for-patients>