



The Clatterbridge  
Cancer Centre  
NHS Foundation Trust

# Ultrasound Guided Biopsy

Radiology

A guide for patients and carers

# Contents

What is an ultrasound guided biopsy?.....	1
Why do I need an ultrasound guided biopsy procedure? .....	2
Can there be any complications or risks? .....	2
What will the procedure involve? .....	3
How do I prepare for the procedure? .....	5
General information.....	5
References and acknowledgement .....	5



This leaflet tells you about ultrasound guidance for biopsies. It explains what is involved and what the possible risks are. It is not meant to replace discussions between you and your doctor, but can act as a starting point for you. If you have any questions about the procedure, please ask the doctor who has referred you or the Imaging Department at The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre (CCC).

## What is an ultrasound guided biopsy?

An ultrasound guided biopsy is a procedure which is undertaken to obtain a tissue sample, so that your doctor can get an accurate diagnosis of any disease that may be present.

The ultrasound scan is used to guide the Radiologist doctor or Ultrasonographer undertaking your biopsy. The ultrasound is used to find the area of your body from which the sample is required. A thin needle is used to puncture the skin and then take a sample or biopsy of tissue. The thin needle that is used can be seen by the ultrasound scan so that the doctor or ultrasonographer can be certain a sample is being taken from the correct area.

In some cases, local anaesthetic is used to numb the skin before the sample is taken. You will be able to discuss this with the doctor or ultrasonographer undertaking your procedure on the day.

## Why do I need an ultrasound guided biopsy procedure?

The doctor and health care team looking after you want to ensure that they are obtaining a diagnosis for your symptoms. You may have a lump or an area of fluid, from which the doctor may want to take a sample. Alternatively, your doctor may want a small sample of tissue from an organ. These can all be necessary to get a better understanding of any disease that may be present and can help the doctor and you plan for any future management or care that you need.

Collecting samples of tissues, fluid or organs using ultrasound guidance ensures that the correct area is being sampled and that the sample is collected as safely as possible.

## Can there be any complications or risks?

Every interventional procedure may carry a number of possible complications. The Radiologist will explain in detail the frequency and severity of the complications at the moment of the consent form signature. The benefits of doing the biopsy and reaching a diagnosis outweigh the possible complications in every case. If you have any concerns about complications after you have been discharged, for example, pain or constant bleeding from the biopsy site, you should contact the **The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre Hotline on 0800 169 5555**.



There is a small chance that you may get an infection after this procedure. You must inform your GP as soon as possible if, in the week following your procedure, you experience any of the following:

- A high temperature
- Aching limbs
- Painful swelling of the area from where the sample was taken

Ensure you tell the GP that you have had an ultrasound guided diagnostic biopsy procedure and your GP will prescribe appropriate antibiotic treatment or refer you back to your health care team for further assessment.

## What will the procedure involve?

You will be an inpatient in the hospital as a day case. You will have had some blood tests performed beforehand to check that you do not have an increased risk of bleeding. You will be asked not to eat for four hours before the procedure, although you may still drink clear fluids such as water and have your normal medication the same day of the procedure, but there are exceptions. Please inform the referring doctor of all your medication well in advance. A specially trained team led by an Interventional Radiologist and/or an Ultrasonographer within the Imaging Department will carry out your procedure.

## When in the Imaging Department:

- We will ask you to sign an informed consent explaining the procedure and possible complications

You will lie on a table, and we will perform an ultrasound to find the area of tissue to have the biopsy taken

- We will rub gel on your skin which helps to get good pictures for the examination
- We will gently move the ultrasound equipment over your skin, which will send sound waves through your body. You will not feel or hear the sound waves. They will make pictures on the ultrasound machine
- Next, we clean the skin and numb with some medicine via a needle. You may feel a slight burning sensation as the skin becomes numb
- While performing the ultrasound, the doctor will gently insert the fine needle to take the biopsy. You may feel some pain or pressure, this only lasts for a short time
- A dressing will be applied to the area the biopsy was taken

You will then go back to the ward where the area will be checked for bleeding and any observations needed will be taken by the ward staff.



## How do I prepare for the procedure?

No special preparation on the day is required. You should ideally be accompanied home (but not on public transport or driving) in case you have any pain or discomfort after the test.

If you are on Warfarin or Aspirin, please ring your cancer doctor's secretary, as you will need special instructions before you come for your procedure.

## General information

Most of your questions should have been answered by this leaflet, but this is only a starting point for discussions with your cancer health care team. Share the information contained within this leaflet with your partner and family (if you wish) so they can be of help and support. There may be information they need to know, especially if they are taking care of you following this examination. After the procedure, you will be given an information aftercare form with the details of the procedure and telephone numbers, etc.

## How we produce our information

All of our leaflets are produced by staff at The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre and this information is not sponsored or influenced in any way. Every effort is made to ensure that the information included in this leaflet is accurate and complete and we hope that it will add to any professional advice you have had. All our leaflets are evidence based where appropriate and they are regularly reviewed and updated. If you are concerned about your health in any way, you should consult your healthcare team.

We rely on a number of sources to gather evidence for our information. All of our information is in line with accepted national or international guidelines where possible. Where no guidelines exist, we rely on other reliable sources such as systematic reviews, published clinical trials data or a consensus review of experts. We also use medical textbooks, journals and government publications.

References for this leaflet can be obtained by telephoning 0151 556 5570.

If you need this leaflet in large print, Braille, audio or different language, please call 0151 556 5570.

**If you have a comment, concern, compliment or complaint, please call 0151 556 5203.**

The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre NHS Foundation Trust  
Clatterbridge Road, Bebington,  
Wirral, CH63 4JY.

Tel: 0151 556 5000

Web: [www.clatterbridgecc.nhs.uk](http://www.clatterbridgecc.nhs.uk)

Issue date: 01/12/18

Issue no: 1.0

Reference: LIMAUSBIOP

Review date: 01/12/21