

About CT-Guided Lung Biopsy

CT-guided lung biopsy is a procedure to collect small tissue samples from your lung. The samples will be collected from a part of your lung that your doctor thinks may be abnormal.

- During your procedure an imaging method called CT (computed tomography) is used to show live pictures of your lung.
- A thin needle is used to remove tissue samples.
- The samples are tested in a lab for cancer and other problems.

What should I do before my procedure?

Tell your doctor about any medicines you are taking. It is important for your doctor to know if you are taking any blood-thinning medicines or have a bleeding disorder.

You may need to stop taking all or some medicine before the procedure. This includes:

- all prescription medicines
- blood-thinning medicines (anticoagulants)
- over-the-counter medicines such as aspirin or ibuprofen
- street drugs
- herbs, vitamins, and other supplements.

Follow any directions you're given for not eating or drinking before the procedure.

Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, may be pregnant, are breastfeeding, are allergic to any medicines, have a cough or other illness, use oxygen therapy, smoke, or drink alcohol regularly.

What happens the day of my procedure?

The procedure takes about 60 minutes. The entire procedure (including time to prepare and recover) takes several hours. You'll probably go home the same day.

Before your procedure begins:

- An IV (intravenous) line may be put into a vein in your hand or arm. Fluids and medicines are in this line.
- You may be given anesthesia so you are free of pain during the procedure. You may be awake, drowsy, or in a deep sleep, depending on the type of anesthesia used.

What happens during my procedure?

- You'll lie on a CT scan table. You may be on your back, side, or stomach.
- Pictures of your lung are taken using the CT scanner. This helps your doctor find the best place to position the needle in your lungs.
- A mark is made on your skin where the needle will be inserted (biopsy site). The site is injected with numbing medicine.
- Using the CT pictures as a guide, the needle is passed through the skin between your ribs and into your lung. Samples of tissue are removed from the abnormal area in your lung.
- The samples are sent to a lab to be checked for problems.

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- When the procedure is finished, the needle is removed. Pressure is applied to the biopsy site to help stop any bleeding. A bandage is placed on the site.

What happens after the procedure?

- After your procedure, you'll be taken to a room to rest until the anesthesia wears off.
- A chest X-ray may be done to make sure there was no damage to your lungs or the area where the needle was placed.

Can I drive home after the procedure?

- No, you cannot drive. You must have an adult family member or friend drive you home. The medicine you received may not be totally gone from your body for 24 hours.
- **Do not** drive a car, operate machinery, make any important decisions, or drink any alcoholic beverages for 24 hours following your procedure.

Are there any medicines I should not take?

- **Do not** take aspirin, Motrin (ibuprofen), Aleve (naproxen), or medicines containing ibuprofen or naproxen for 24 hours.
- **Do not** take any other blood thinning medicines for 24 hours.
- You can take Tylenol if you have any pain.
- Check with your primary care doctor about how you should continue to take your prescribed medicines.

How do I take care of myself?

- It is a good idea if a friend or family member can stay with you for the rest of the day and overnight. That's for your protection and safety.

- When you get home, rest. You should limit your activity for the next 3 days.
- You can remove the bandage on your biopsy site the day after your procedure.
- Don't lift anything over 5 to 10 pounds (the weight of a gallon of milk) for 3 days.
- You can shower the day after your procedure. But don't soak in the tub for 3 days.
- You can eat today. Eat light, low fat foods.

Who should I call if I have problems after my procedure?

- Monday through Friday, 7 am to 5 pm: Radiology Resident on call at 615-343-2400.
- After hours or on weekends: Radiology Resident on call at 615-343-7185.

How do I know if I am having problems?

You should call the Radiology Resident if you have:

- temperature more than 101° F (38.3° C)
- redness, swelling, or bad smelling drainage from biopsy site
- severe pain in area of biopsy
- severe chest or stomach pain
- weakness or dizziness
- shortness of breath

If your symptoms are severe, you should call 911 or go to the nearest Emergency Room.

How will I find out my test results?

You should contact the doctor who ordered your procedure. The doctor should have the results of your procedure in 24 to 48 hours.