

Interventional Radiology **Needle Biopsy of the Lung**

A needle biopsy of the lung is performed by a radiologist using a CT Scanner to locate the nodule. More than half of all solitary or single nodules in the lung are non-cancerous, however, all nodules must be considered potentially malignant until proven otherwise.

For this procedure, you will have a specific prep given by the physician that will be performing the procedure. Some blood tests prior to the procedure may be required in order to check how long it takes your blood to clot. You will not be allowed to eat or drink at least eight hours prior to the exam.

There is a nurse and technologist that assist the physician. An IV will be started before the procedure in order to administer medications during the procedure. You will be required to stay for several hours in a hospital room after the procedure until the physician discharges you. The nurse or physician will follow-up with you.

What are the benefits and the risks?

A needle biopsy is a reliable method of obtaining tissue samples to show if the lung nodule is benign or malignant. This method of biopsy is less invasive than an open surgical biopsy, which may require general anesthesia. The risks include:

- Bleeding
- Coughing up blood
- Infection
- Punctured lung which can cause the lung to collapse due to air leaking into the chest cavity. If the lung collapses, a small tube may be inserted to drain the air away.

How long does the procedure take?

This test will take approximately 2 hours. Patients should also expect to stay in the hospital in order to recover from the procedure for up to 6 hours.

How do I get the results?

After the procedure, the tissue is sent to the lab for testing and most of these tests take at least two days. The results will be sent to your ordering physician, please contact him or her in a few days to check for the result.

How to prepare

- This test is scheduled through our Central Scheduling department 757-6475. The schedulers are available from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.
- Patients who have had their films at another facility must bring them in by at least one day prior to the procedure so the radiologist can review them.
- Bring the order for the procedure.

- You will need to have someone drive you home after you are released from the hospital post-procedure since you will be receiving sedation.
- Wear comfortable clothing that can be easily removed for the scan, such as loose slacks, sweatpants, tee shirts or sweatshirts.
- Arrive at the hospital 15 minutes before the start of your test if an admitting clerk has registered you over the phone in the day or days prior to your test.
- Park in the hospital parking lot near the Admitting Entrance, and enter through the Admitting doors.
- You can go directly to Radiology if:
 - You are pre-registered for your test.
 - If you are not pre-registered, and it is between 8:00 a.m. and 4:15 p.m., Monday through Friday. A registration clerk is in Radiology during these hours and days.
- At all other times not mentioned above, please report to Admitting to be registered for testing.
- You will need to bring with you a picture I.D. for identification and your insurance cards.
- If you have any questions about registration, scheduling, or insurance, contact the admitting department at 757-6217.
- If you have any questions, please call the CT Scan department at (219) 757-6139.

*Note: See also information listed under:

"Pre-Biopsy Instructions" and "Post Biopsy Instructions"