

CT-GUIDED NEEDLE BIOPSY

Patient Education

What is the purpose of this test?

Computed Tomography (CT) permits visualization of the inner structures of the human body. Almost any organ or structure in the body can be biopsied percutaneously (through the skin) under CT guidance. This includes the lungs, liver, kidneys, and pelvis. Most biopsies are performed to confirm that a mass is malignant and determine the specific type of tumor so that appropriate therapy can be started.



How should I prepare for this test?

Do not eat or drink anything after midnight before your procedure. If you take the blood thinner Coumadin, tell your doctor so it can be stopped. Inform your physician if you have been taking aspirin for an extended period of time. No aspirin products four (4) days prior to biopsy---Tylenol only. You will go to Radiology Holding to be prepped for the biopsy. Bring the following with you the day of your procedure:

- Current medications in original pill bottle
- Robe
- Slippers
- A responsible adult to drive you home.

Will this test affect me?

Your cooperation is very important. A nurse will start an intravenous line (IV), and you will be connected to a monitor so a nurse can keep a close watch on all of your vital signs. A CT-guided biopsy is a relatively safe procedure, and risks depend on the site being biopsied. Feel free to discuss possible complications with your doctor before the procedure. Be prepared to stay at the hospital 4 to 6 hours.

How is this test performed?

You will be asked questions regarding your past medical history, present symptoms, medications and allergies. You will meet with an interventional radiologist who will explain the test, and you will sign a consent form. During the procedure you will lie on the CT table on your back, stomach, or on either side, depending on the needle path planned. Limited CT scanning is performed and the lesion (mass) is located. It is very important that you be able to hold your breath during each CT visualization. The overlying skin is cleaned and a numbing medication will be used. A needle is placed through the skin into the lesion. You may receive intravenous (IV) sedation. Aside from a slight sting from the medication, this procedure is relatively painless.

How will I receive results of the test?

A pathologist performs an evaluation of the specimen. The results will be sent to your physician.

PLEASE CONTACT YOUR PHYSICIAN FOR FURTHER QUESTIONS