

Image Guided Liver Biopsy

WHAT IS A LIVER BIOPSY?

The liver is a large organ that is located in the right upper abdomen beneath the rib cage. It performs many functions that are essential to life.

A liver biopsy is a procedure to remove a small piece of liver tissue, so it can be examined under a microscope for signs of damage or disease. Your doctor may recommend a liver biopsy if blood tests or imaging studies suggest you might have a liver problem. A liver biopsy is also used to determine the severity of liver disease.

As a general rule, a liver biopsy is recommended only when the results would affect your treatment or management. Most liver biopsies are done in a hospital. Upon arrival for the biopsy a doctor or nurse will review your medical history, including medications and allergies. You may have an IV line placed into a vein so that fluid and medicine can be given if needed.

It is common to have Imaging of the liver and gallbladder area before the biopsy so that your doctor can pinpoint the biopsy site. The type of imaging needed will be decided between the referring consultant and radiologist. The biopsy itself only takes a few seconds as the biopsy needle is passed quickly in and out of the liver. A small dressing will be applied to the biopsy site; stitches are not needed.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

The key benefit of biopsy is the correct determination of a patient's diagnosis. Once a diagnosis is correctly made, physicians can begin appropriate treatment.



ARE THERE ANY RISKS INVOLVED?

Prior to the procedure commencing the doctor will complete a consent form with you and this will discuss the benefits and risks associated with this procedure.

- Pain at the biopsy site is the most common complication after a liver biopsy. Pain after a liver biopsy is usually a mild discomfort.
- Bleeding can occur after a liver biopsy. Excessive bleeding may require you to be hospitalized for a blood transfusion or surgery to stop the bleeding.
- Infection. Rarely, bacteria may enter the abdominal cavity or bloodstream.
- Accidental injury to a nearby organ. In rare instances, the needle may stick another internal organ, such as the gallbladder or a lung, during a liver biopsy.

HOW LONG WILL I BE IN HOSPITAL FOR?

Prior to the procedure your consultant will discuss your case with a radiologist and it will be decided if this can be completed as a day case procedure or if you may need an overnight stay within the hospital.

WHAT HAPPENS TO ME WHEN I ARRIVE AT THE WARD / DEPARTMENT?

Prior to you coming in for your procedure a member of the nursing team will contact you if you are having the procedure as an outpatient. If you are an inpatient they will visit the ward and explain the procedure and also discuss with the medical team looking after you.

If you are an outpatient you will attend the department and the nurse looking after you will:

- Ask questions to check that you are the right person and we are completing the right procedure.
- A name band with all your details will be put on your wrist.
- You will be asked to get changed into a hospital gown for the procedure.



- The nurse will take a set of baseline observations i.e. Blood pressure, respiratory rate, oxygen saturations, pulse and temperature. If you are a diabetic they will also check your blood sugar.
- The nurse will place an IV line into a vein so that fluid and medicine can be given if needed.

ON THE DAY OF THE PROCEDURE / DURING THE PROCEDURE

Prior to a liver biopsy, a healthcare provider will check blood tests that reflect how well your blood clots. Normal blood clotting is important to prevent bleeding after the biopsy.

You should carry a list of your medications, including over-the-counter medications, herbs, and vitamins. Discuss this list with your clinician before the biopsy to see if you need to stop any medications, herbs, or vitamins temporarily. Medications to avoid before liver biopsy — Patients are usually advised not to take medications that can increase the risk of bleeding. These include the following:

- Aspirin or aspirin-containing medicines.
- Other nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) such as ibuprofen and naproxen.
- Medicines used to prevent blood clots, such as Warfarin and Rivaroxaban.
- Certain medicines for heart conditions (such as Clopidogrel).

Do not stop any medications without first talking with your clinician.

Eating before liver biopsy — you should have nothing to eat or drink for six hours before the procedure.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE PROCEDURE?

There is a small risk of internal bleeding after the biopsy. If you take aspirin, warfarin, and other anti-coagulants or if you have a bleeding disorder, there may be a greater chance of bleeding from the biopsy site. This is why you will stay in hospital for four to six hours after the procedure, so that we can monitor you.

After the biopsy you will stay in the recovery unit. You will need to stay in bed for four to six hours, or as instructed by the nurse. You will be asked to lie on your side or on your back for two to three of these hours to help the healing process. Your blood pressure, pulse and temperature will be checked at regular intervals.



We will provide light refreshments, such as tea or coffee, a sandwich and some fruit. If you have any special dietary requirements, you may wish to bring some food and drink with you. The nurse will tell you when you can get up and move around.

DISCHARGE ARRANGEMENTS

If you are staying in the hospital and there are no problems, you will be taken back to your ward after about half an hour.

If you had the biopsy as a day case patient, you will be able to go home. You will need a responsible adult to take you home by car or taxi. We do not recommend that you use public transport as it is unsafe if you feel unwell.

You should rest for the remainder of the day and possibly for the next day, depending on your recovery.

- Have someone to stay with you overnight.
- Eat and drink normally.
- Take your usual pain relief, as prescribed, if you have any pain.
- Continue with your normal medication as prescribed.
- Keep a regular check on the biopsy site.
- Do not shower for 24 hours after the procedure and do not have a bath for 48 hours after the procedure.

Please rest at home for a minimum of 24 hours. Do not go to work or school on the day after the procedure. Always follow the advice and instructions that the doctors and nurses have given you.

IF THERE IS A PROBLEM

You may notice some bruising at the puncture site. Bleeding or swelling is rare, but if it does happen, lie down and apply pressure directly on the site for ten minutes. If the bleeding or swelling continues after ten minutes go to your nearest accident and emergency (A&E) department.

Please contact the radiology department on 0161 922 6607, Monday to Friday, 9 am to 5 pm, if you need advice.

If you feel you need urgent medical attention or are worried about anything outside of our normal opening hours, please contact your GP or go to your nearest accident and emergency (A&E) department.



Source

In compiling this information leaflet, a number of recognised professional bodies and accredited good practice guidelines have been used.

Should you have a visual impairment, this leaflet can be made available in bigger print or on audiotape. If you require either of these options, please ring 0161 922 6426/7

If you have any questions that you would like to ask the Radiology Department Staff when you attend for your examination/procedure, please write them down here and bring this paper with you to aid your memory:



Language, Interpretation and Patient Support Service (LIPS):

If you require an interpreter to assist your appointment, please ask an appropriate family member to contact our central booking office between **Monday to Friday 8am to 5pm on 0161 922 6991** to arrange this for you.

語言翻譯及病者支持服務 (LIPS)

如果閣下需要翻譯員在您的預約當日幫助您的話 請找一名合適的家庭成員 **0161 922 6991** 聯絡本中

央預約辦事處來您您安排 我們的辦公時間是星期一至星期五 上午 8 時至下午 5 時

Językowo Tłumaczeniowa Usługa Pomocy dla Pacjenta (Language, Interpretation and Patient Support Service LIPS):

Jeśli potrzebujesz pomocy tłumacza w trakcie swojej wizyty, proszę poprosić odpowiedniego członka rodziny o skontaktowanie się z Centralnym Biurem Zamówień (*Central Booking Office*), w celu zorganizowania tłumacza pomiędzy poniedziałkiem a piątkiem w godzinach od **08:00 - 17:00** pod numerem **0161 922 6991**.

لیٹگوئج، انٹرپریٹیشن اینڈ پشٹ سپورٹ سروس (Lips)

اگر آپ کو اپنی اپائنٹمنٹ کے لئے مترجم کی مدد کی ضرورت ہو تو براہ مہربانی اپنے خاندان کے کسی موزوں فرد سے کہیں کہ وہ ہمارے سنٹرل بکنگ آفس سے پیر سے جمعہ 8.00 بجے صبح سے 5.00 بجے شام کے دوران 0161 922 6991 پر فون کر کے اس کا بندوبست کریں۔

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