

Radiology department 11 (Pat Seed)

Information about your CT biopsy

Introduction

This leaflet tells you about the procedure known as a CT (Computed Tomography) biopsy. It may make you think of things you would like to discuss with your doctor.

What to tell the doctor

- If you have any allergies.
- If you have had a previous reaction to intravenous contrast medium (the dye used for some x-rays and CT scanning).
- It is important to tell the doctor or the radiology department **before attending for admission** if you are taking medication to prevent blood clots. Below is a list of some of the medications which are used to thin the blood and help to prevent blood clots.

If you are currently taking any of these medications, please contact your referring doctor or the CT scanning department on 0161 446 3884 as soon as possible, as these may need to be stopped prior to your procedure. Failure to do so may result in your procedure being postponed.

Apixaban	Dalteparin
Aspirin	Enoxaparin
Clexane	Fragmin
Clopidogrel	Rivaroxaban
Dabigatran	Warfarin

What is a CT guided biopsy?

A CT scan uses x-rays linked to a computer to produce a series of images of the body. These images or pictures are in cross-section like “slices” through the body. A CT guided biopsy means taking a small sample of tissue for investigation. The CT scan helps the radiologist (a specialist doctor trained to interpret your scan and perform the biopsy) accurately guide the biopsy needle into the area that needs to be sampled.

Is there any preparation for my biopsy?

- You will need to have your blood tested a few days before the biopsy. This is just to check that all is well. On the day of the biopsy you will be admitted to the IPU (integrated procedures unit). You will be able to rest and recover there while the staff look after you.

STAFF PLEASE DELETE AS APPROPRIATE:

- There is usually no need to starve before your scan; just eat and drink as normal. We may give you a special drink called Gastrografin which helps to define the bowel on the CT scan.
- You are required to starve prior to before to your biopsy. Please do not eat after midnight on the night before your appointment. Clear fluids are allowed until 6:00am.

The radiologist will explain the procedure and any possible risks to you and ask you to sign a consent form.

What happens during my biopsy?

- First of all, we will do a scan. This helps the doctor to decide where to take the sample from. You may have an injection of a contrast agent in your arm. The contrast agent is a colourless liquid.
- The doctor will then clean your skin with antiseptic solution. He or she will usually inject some anaesthetic to numb the skin.
- When the skin is numb, the doctor will insert the biopsy needle.
- Once the needle is in the correct position, the doctor takes a sample of tissue. We usually take more than one sample.

What happens after my biopsy?

- The biopsy needle is removed, and a small dressing or plaster is put on.
- You will go back to the IPU to lie down for a few hours. The staff will check your progress before you go home.
- If you are having a lung biopsy, you may need to have 2 chest x-rays before you go home to check that everything is all right.
- For more superficial biopsies we might ask you to wait in the hospital for half an hour before leaving.
- The radiologist's report will be sent to your Christie doctor usually within a week.
- We advise you not to drive for the remainder of the day.

What are the risks and benefits of this test?

All procedures carry some risks. The risks of biopsies include bleeding, damage to organs and infection. The possible damage to organs depends upon the type of biopsy, for instance:

- in a chest biopsy there is a risk of lung collapse or coughing up blood
- in liver or kidney biopsy bleeding is more of a risk (although uncommon)
- in pancreatic biopsy there is a risk of inflammation of the pancreas called pancreatitis.

There are other possible risks but these are rare. The benefits of biopsies outweigh the risks because making a diagnosis is essential to help the doctors decide on the best treatment to offer you for your suspected tumour.

CT scanners use radiation but we think the benefits of having this scan outweigh the risks of exposure to this radiation.

As with all medication, a small number of people may be allergic to the contrast injection. Tell the radiographer if you have any allergies.

Are there any alternatives to a CT guided biopsy?

This depends on where the biopsy sample needs to be taken from. Sometimes, patients can have surgery to take larger biopsy samples but the type of biopsy that is needed depends upon the suspected tumour and position of the tumour. The consultant radiologists who will perform the biopsy, will decide on the best method to perform the biopsy. Occasionally, we may have to arrange for the biopsy to be performed using another method depending on what we see at the time (for example, if we find that the lesion cannot be seen on CT, then we may have to arrange an ultrasound guided biopsy).

What happens if I decide not to have a guided biopsy?

If you decide that you do not want this procedure to be carried out by us then you need to make an appointment with your consultant at The Christie and discuss your case individually with them.

What if I cannot keep my appointment?

If you cannot keep your appointment please contact the department as soon as possible on **0161 446 3884**. If you are admitted to hospital as an emergency before your biopsy, please inform the ward staff that you have a CT guided biopsy booked.

Contacts

If you have any questions please phone CT scanning on **0161 446 3884**.

If you need information in a different format, such as easy read, large print, BSL, braille, email, SMS text or other communication support, please tell your ward or clinic nurse.

Contact The Christie Hotline for
urgent support and specialist advice

The Christie Hotline:
0161 446 3658

Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

We try to ensure that all our information given to patients is accurate, balanced and based on the most up-to-date scientific evidence. If you would like to have details about the sources used please contact **patient.information@christie.nhs.uk**

© 2017 The Christie NHS Foundation Trust. This document may be copied for use within the NHS only on the condition that The Christie NHS Foundation Trust is acknowledged as the creator.

For more information about The Christie and our services, please visit **www.christie.nhs.uk** or visit the cancer information centres at Withington, Oldham or Salford.

The Christie NHS Foundation Trust
Wilmslow Road
Withington
Manchester M20 4BX
Tel: 0161 446 3000
www.christie.nhs.uk

The Christie Patient Information Service
October 2017 - Review October 2020

