

# **PERCUTANEOUS MUSCULO-SKELETAL BIOPSY**

## **What Is It?**

The purpose of a biopsy is to obtain a very small tissue sample from inside your body which can be examined to tell us what is the cause of the underlying disease, for example, infection or tumour. This will help your doctors to choose the correct and best treatment for your condition.

## **What Preparation is Necessary?**

Most biopsies are performed as an outpatient procedure and using local anaesthetic only. This means that you can go home immediately or shortly after the biopsy. A few biopsies require general anaesthesia and this requires a short stay in hospital.

If you are on aspirin, Plavix (an antiplatelet drugs ) or if you are taking warfarin, please let the radiology department know before your appointment.

## **What Exactly Happens During the Examination?**

For biopsies performed with local anaesthesia, the anaesthetic is put into the skin and the deeper tissues to create a numb or frozen tract. The anaesthetic stings to start with but the stinging wears off quickly. The skin remains numb for any time between about 30 minutes and a few hours and then wears off.

Biopsies are performed using ultrasound, CT or occasionally magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) to guide the needle. Up to 8 tissue samples are taken usually from the abnormal area. The biopsy site will be dressed with a small bandage which should remain in place for 2 days. If the puncture site has not healed please redress this with another plaster.

## **Aftercare**

Following the biopsy, as the anaesthetic wears off, it is likely that you will feel soreness and bruising. If the pain becomes worse over the next few days, please contact your general practitioner or your hospital doctor.

## **What Are The Possible Complications?**

The main complications of a biopsy are that there may be some bleeding or that infection is introduced. Occasionally a nerve can be damaged if the biopsy needle hits this. All these complications occur infrequently, less than 1 in 1000 biopsies.

## **When Will I Get My Results?**

The biopsy results usually take between 7 to 10 days to come through. It is important that you arrange to see your doctor to get the results of the test.

# **HCA**

Department of Radiology  
The Princess Grace Hospital  
**Tel No: 020-7908-2000**

