



## Procedure Information

### Liver Biopsy

#### Introduction

Liver biopsy is a procedure to take a small piece of liver tissue for diagnosing and investigating suspected liver diseases. Liver tissue can be obtained by percutaneous and core needle biopsy sampling (under ultrasound or CT guided), by a transjugular core needle approach, or by laparoscopic or open surgical techniques. Patients with acute or chronic hepatitis, abnormal liver function, liver failure or cirrhosis etc. may be candidates for liver biopsy.

#### Outcomes

Liver biopsy can provide information for making the diagnosis, predicting the prognosis and formulating the treatment plan.

#### Procedures

1. The procedure is performed under local/ general anaesthesia.
2. A small incision is made in the skin.
3. You are asked to hold your breath. A needle is inserted through the incision into the liver to take a small piece of liver tissue.
4. The tissue is sent to the Pathology Department for examination.

#### Possible Risks and Complications

1. Pain
2. Wound infection
3. Wound bleeding
4. Injury to the nearby organs

\*\* The risks listed above are in general terms and the possibility of complications is not exhaustive. Please understand that even though all procedures are carried out with utmost professionalism and care, this does not rule out the possibility of complications arising.

#### Pre-procedure Preparations

1. Good hygiene can prevent surgical wound infection. Therefore, we advise you to clean up yourself on the day of the procedure.
2. The procedures and possible complications will be explained by the doctor and a consent form must be signed prior to the procedure.
3. Please inform the doctor and nurse all your past medical history, previous surgical operations, current medication and any complication with drug or anaesthesia. Please inform the doctor if you are taking medications that affect blood coagulation, such as Aspirin, Plavix, Warfarin, Xarelto or Pradaxa, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) such as Ibuprofen, Naproxen and Chinese medicine.
4. According to the doctor's order, you may be asked to stop taking blood-thinning medications for a few days.
5. No food or drink four to six hours before the procedure or as per the doctor's instruction.

6. Blood tests may be performed and an intravenous catheter may be inserted prior to the procedure.
7. You should be placed in a supine position during the procedure.

### **Post-procedure Instructions**

1. Your pulse and blood pressure will be closely monitored by the nursing staff.
2. Mild pain in the upper abdomen may occur for several minutes to several hours after the procedure.
3. Normal diet may be resumed when the condition is stable.

### **Wound Care**

1. The wound will be covered with a sterile dressing which must be kept dry.
2. You may take a shower after the procedure but must ensure that the dressing is waterproof and remains clean and dry.
3. Generally the wound dressing can be removed after a few days. Please confirm with your doctor.

### **Advice on Discharge**

1. Any strenuous activities and exercises should be avoided within 2 weeks after the procedure to prevent bleeding from the biopsy site.
2. Immediately consult your doctor or return to the hospital for professional attention in the event of severe wound pain associated with redness and swelling, dizziness, severe abdominal pain, shivering, high fever over 38°C or 100.4°F, or any other unusual symptoms etc.
3. Any follow-up consultations should be attended as scheduled.

Should there be any enquiries or concerns, please consult the attending doctor.

Under the professional care of the doctor, you will gradually recover. We wish you all the best during your treatment and recovery.

If you have any questions after reading the entire leaflet, please write them down in the spaces provided in order for the doctor to further follow-up.

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Compiled by Union Hospital Operating Theatre (OT) Governance Committee

The above information is for reference only, please enquire your physician for details  
Our Hospital reserves the RIGHT to amend any information in this leaflet without prior notification