



Procedure Information

Liver Biopsy

Introduction

Liver biopsy is a procedure to take a small piece of liver tissue for diagnosing and investigation of suspected liver diseases. Liver tissue can be obtained by percutaneous and core needle biopsy sampling, by a transjugular core needle approach, or by laparoscopic or open surgical techniques and ultrasound guided. Patient 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 on 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 Pathology Department for examination.

Possible Risks and Complications

1. Pain
2. Infection
3. 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.
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 doctor if you are taking medications that affect blood coagulation, such as Aspirin, Warfarin, Xarelto or Pradaxa and Chinese medication.
4. According to doctor's order, you may be asked to stop taking blood-thinning medications for a few days.
5. No food or drink six hours before the procedure.
6. Blood test may be performed.
7. You should be placed in a supine position.

Post-procedure Instructions

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

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 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.

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