Information About Your Child’s Procedure

Biopsy

Read this form so you understand the procedure and its risks. Please ask questions about anything you do not understand.

What is a biopsy?
A biopsy is a procedure in which a doctor places a small needle through the skin and into the area of interest to extract tissue samples or fluid (called specimens). Specimens are sent to a laboratory for analysis.

A biopsy is commonly performed in the bone, thyroid, soft tissues, kidney, spleen, liver and other organs.

How is a biopsy performed?
Depending on the area on interest, the doctor will use either ultrasound or CT scan for guidance. The doctor will numb the area and insert a needle through the skin, near the area of interest. Then several small pieces of the lesion (the abnormal spot or growth) will be obtained. Sometimes the doctor inserts a substance called Gelfoam® into the tract (where the needle went into the organ) to minimize risk of bleeding. The body absorbs the substance, which is harmless.

When finished, we will place gauze and a clear bandage over the needle-puncture site.

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Will my child be awake during the procedure?
No. The procedure will be performed with intravenous (IV) sedation or general anesthesia.

How long does the procedure take?
Generally a biopsy takes an hour. The length of time will vary depending on the location of the biopsy.

What risks are associated with this procedure?
Biopsies are considered low-risk. However, potential complications include:
• bleeding
• infection
• injury to surrounding structures such as veins/arteries or adjacent organs

Risks vary depending on the location of the biopsy.

What can I expect after the procedure?
Depending on the biopsy location, your child may experience some discomfort. We may keep him or her in our recovery area for several hours. Sometimes we will take a blood count (CBC) four hours after the procedure. These steps help us to safely monitor your child for any bleeding.

Are there any activity restrictions?
After the procedure, your child should rest for the remainder of the day. The next day, your child can return to light activities, but should avoid strenuous activity, such as rough playing or contact sports, for one week.

When can my child bathe?
The bandage must stay dry and in place for 48 hours. You may sponge-bathe your child during this time, as long as the bandage stays dry. After 48 hours you may remove the clear bandage and gauze and your child can take a shower. Leave the Steri-Strips®
(white strips) in place. Do not immerse the site in water (bath or pool) until the Steri-Strips fall off. If they haven’t fallen off in seven days, you may remove them.

CONTACT US IMMEDIATELY IF YOUR CHILD EXPERIENCES ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

• pain
• dizziness
• bleeding at biopsy site
• fever higher than 101°F Fahrenheit

Call Interventional Radiology between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, at 215-590-7000. At the first prompt push 1, and at the second prompt push 2.

At all other times, call 215-590-1000 and ask to speak to the interventional radiologist on call.

The Interventional Radiology team is here to help you and your child. Please ask us if you have any questions or if anything is not clear.

Thank you!

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