

Bone Marrow Biopsy

What is a Bone Marrow Biopsy?

A bone marrow biopsy is a procedure that collects samples of fluid and solid parts of bone marrow to be sent to lab for testing.

To Prepare

- Take your normal medications as scheduled
- The scheduler will call you and let you know if you need a driver.

What to Expect

- You will need to have blood work complete the day of your procedure.
- Once you arrive, register for both lab and radiology.
- You will be directed to the lab waiting area and after you have your blood work drawn, they will direct you to the radiology waiting area.
- You may be asked to change into a hospital gown for the procedure.
- The radiologist will talk to you before the procedure and answer any questions you may have.
- You will be positioned on your stomach on the CT table and a pre-procedure image will be taken.
- The radiologist will decide from the image which side of your lower back the biopsy will be taken from and mark your skin with a skin marker.
- The radiologist will then inject the site with numbing medication which will cause a temporary stinging sensation.
- Once numbed, the radiologist will place a needle into your bone by hand or with a special drill. This usually does not cause any pain, but you may feel pressure.
- Some of the liquid part of the bone marrow and a very small bone sample will be removed and sent to lab.
- A band-aid will be applied over the insertion site.
- This procedure typically takes 30 minutes including the time it takes for positioning, pre-imaging and preparing skin and supplies.

After the Procedure

- You may take acetaminophen (Tylenol) for pain as directed by your physician.
- You may apply ice to the biopsy site to help reduce pain and swelling.
- You will receive more detailed post care instructions at the time of discharge.
- Test results will take 7 or more days and will be sent to your doctor. Your doctor will share these results with you.

If you have any questions or concerns, please ask the radiology department staff or contact your doctor.

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