



Having a CT Guided Biopsy

This handout will give you information about a CT (Computerized Axial Tomography) Guided Biopsy and what you need to do to be ready for it. You will receive a call from Dr _____ office with the date and time of your appointment at Lakeridge Health Oshawa.

Date of your appointment: _____

Time you need to arrive for your appointment: _____

You need to have an adult drive you home and stay with you for 24 hours after your biopsy. Your biopsy may be cancelled if you have not arranged for this. You can plan to be at the hospital for about 5 to 6 hours.

What is a CT Guided Biopsy?

A CT Scan image is used to guide a needle into the area of your body that is to be biopsied. This needle is used to remove a small amount of your tissue that will be tested for abnormal cells.

Getting ready for your CT Guided Biopsy

1. If you take any blood thinning medication, your doctor or nurse will talk to you about when to stop these medications before your biopsy, and when to restart them after your CT Guided Biopsy.

The name of your blood thinning medication _____

Stop your blood thinning medication _____ days before your CT Guided Biopsy.

Restart your blood thinning medication _____ days after your CT Guided Biopsy.

2. Take your other medications at their usual times. Take them with a sip of water.
3. Do not eat or drink anything (including water, gum or candy) after midnight the night before your CT Guided Biopsy appointment.

On the day of your CT Guided Biopsy

- You will check in at reception desk of the Diagnostic Imaging department. The Diagnostic Imaging department is located in the G-wing on the main floor of the hospital.
- Bring your health card and a list of your medications with you.

Having your CT Guided Biopsy

You will lie down on the CT scanner bed. An intravenous (IV) line will be put into one of your veins. Medications will be given to you through your IV to help you relax and keep you comfortable. You will be awake while your biopsy is done.

The radiologist (X-ray doctor) will use the images taken with the CT Scan to guide a small needle to the area of your body that is to be biopsied. This area is cleaned and then frozen (numbed) with an injection of a local anesthetic. The Radiologist will insert the needle into the area to be biopsied.

Small samples of your cells or tissue will be removed. This is not painful but you will feel some pressure as these samples are taken. This area will be covered with a dressing. It will take about an hour for you to have your biopsy done.

You will stay in the hospital for about 2 to 3 hours after your CT Guided Biopsy. A family member/partner-in-care can stay with you during this time. You may have a chest x-ray again before you go home. The nurse will give you any instructions you need before you go home.

Talk to any member of your healthcare team if you have questions or do not understand any of the information in this handout.

Last reviewed: January 2024