

# Bone Marrow Biopsy with Aspiration

## General Information

A bone marrow biopsy with aspiration is a procedure to remove a small amount of liquid bone marrow and bone marrow tissue from inside the pelvic bone.

This test will help your health care provider find out what types and amount of blood cells are in your bone marrow. A variety of special studies may be done to test the samples for disease and/or clotting problems.

## Before the Test

- Ask your health care provider if you will receive a sedative (medicine to make you sleepy) before the test. If you will be receiving medicine:
  - do not eat or drink anything after midnight on the day of your test
  - make arrangements to have someone drive you home after the test.
- Tell your health care provider if you:
  - are taking any prescription and over-the-counter medicines, herbals and/or vitamins
  - have an allergy to medicines or foods
  - have any bleeding problems
  - are pregnant.

## During the Test

- You will lie on your stomach or side.
- The skin over the back of your pelvic bone will be cleansed.
- A medicine (local anesthetic) is injected to numb the area.
- The health care provider will make a small incision (cut) into the skin. This will help the needle go through skin.

## Your Biopsy

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_ a.m. / p.m.

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- You will feel pressure when the needle is inserted.
- Three samples of bone marrow will be taken.
  - The first two samples are the liquid part of the marrow (aspiration). You may feel an uncomfortable pulling feeling.
  - The third sample is a small amount of the solid bone marrow (biopsy).
- The test takes about 20 minutes.

## After the Test

- You may need to have a sample of blood taken from your arm as part of the test.
- You will need to lie on your back for 30 minutes. This is to reduce the risk of bleeding.
- A dressing will be placed on your incision. For two days:
  - keep your dressing on your incision
  - keep your dressing clean and dry
  - do not shower or take a bath
  - do not do strenuous (heavy) activities.
- You will be able to drive unless you received a medicine to help you relax during the test. You may need to have someone drive you home after the test.



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- Follow any directions your health care provider gives you.
- Ask your health care provider when and how you will get your test results.
- You may have some soreness and bruising at the needle site. You may take acetaminophen (Tylenol®) for discomfort. Follow package directions.

## Risks of Having a Bone Marrow Biopsy with Aspiration

A bone marrow biopsy with aspiration is safe for your bones and bone marrow. As with any procedure, there are some risks. The risks include:

- discomfort during the test and for a few days after the test
- bleeding during and after the test (rare)
- infection where the needle was inserted or inside your bone (rare).

Your health care provider will talk with you about the possible risks.

## When To Call Your Health Care Provider

Call your health care provider if you have any of the following:

- fever
- increased pain
- redness, swelling and/or drainage where the needle was inserted
- bleeding that soaks the dressing.

### Your Health Care Provider

Name:

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Phone number:

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