

INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS

Undergoing a liver biopsy

The radiology department (x-ray department) has received a request from your hospital doctor for you to have a needle biopsy test performed.

This leaflet will help you understand what is involved. Your doctor feels it is important that a small sample of tissue (a biopsy) is obtained from your liver. This will be examined under the microscope in the pathology department and a report will be sent to your doctor.

Arrangements for your admission have been made with the Day Case Unit. The procedure requires you to rest in hospital for six hours afterwards and may require an overnight stay. You should bring night clothes and toiletries. **Please leave any valuables at home.** You are responsible for all personal items you bring into hospital and the Trust cannot accept responsibility for their loss or damage.

How do I prepare for my biopsy?

If you are on any medication, you will need to bring this to hospital with you. We need to know in advance if you are on any tablets to prevent blood clotting, for example Warfarin, Clopidogrel, Apixiban, etc.

These tablets will almost certainly need to be stopped for the biopsy. This should have been arranged with you but if you have any queries or concerns please contact your hospital doctor.

The preparation for the liver biopsy is as follows:

- During the week or two prior to the biopsy date, you will be invited to attend the x-ray department for a blood test and brief discussion with one of the nursing staff. The nurse will confirm the arrangements with you, including your formal consent for the procedure, and answer any queries you might have.
- On the day of the biopsy, you are allowed a light breakfast at 7am. No more food or drink is allowed until after the biopsy.
- You will be given a time to arrive at the Day Case Unit and from there you will be taken to the x-ray department for your liver biopsy.
- In the x-ray department your details will be checked, and the x-ray doctor will explain the biopsy procedure to you again. The doctor will confirm that you understand and agree to it and that you have signed a consent form.

What will happen during the biopsy?

The x-ray doctor will use ultrasound to 'guide' the biopsy needle, marking the site and cleaning your skin before injecting local anaesthetic to numb the area.

While the biopsy is being taken, you will be asked to hold your breath for a few seconds. This may be repeated.

Once the procedure is completed, you will be taken back to the ward where you should rest quietly in bed for the next four to six hours. For the first hour you should lie on your right side. Your pulse rate and blood pressure will be checked regularly for the next few hours.

Are there any risks from the procedure?

You will have had blood tests before the procedure is arranged specifically to ensure the risk of complications is kept to a minimum.

Bleeding from the biopsy site is the most common potential complication. This may result in a temporary discomfort in the tummy or at the right shoulder tip. This usually goes away quickly but, if persistent, may require a simple painkiller. Apart from these complication, ultrasound guided liver biopsy is a very safe procedure.

Bleeding is usually very slight but if it were to continue you might need a blood transfusion. Very rarely another radiological procedure or an operation is required to stop the bleeding.

What happens when I go home?

Before discharge you will be seen by the ward doctor and if everything is satisfactory you will be allowed home.

Please arrange for a responsible adult to collect you from hospital and to stay with you for the next 24 hours.

A telephone should be readily available, but it is very unlikely that any complications will develop once you have gone home. However, should you feel unwell please contact your GP.

Your next clinic appointment will either be given to you before you leave or posted on to you. The results of the biopsy will be discussed with you then.

What if I need further information?

If you have any questions that have not been answered by this leaflet, please ask the nurse when you attend for your preoperative assessment.

Contact us:

X-ray Department 01623 672202

Medical Day Case Unit 01623 622515,
extension 2077

Further sources of information

NHS Choices: www.nhs.uk/conditions

Our website: www.sfh-tr.nhs.uk

Patient Experience Team (PET)

PET is available to help with any of your compliments, concerns, or complaints, and will ensure a prompt and efficient service.

King's Mill Hospital: 01623 672222

Newark Hospital: 01636 685692

Email: sfh-tr.PET@nhs.net

If you would like this information in an alternative format, for example large print or easy read, or if you need help with communicating with us, for example because you use British Sign Language, please let us know. You can call the Patient Experience Team on 01623 672222 or email sfh-tr.PET@nhs.net.

This document is intended for information purposes only and should not replace advice that your relevant health professional would give you. External websites may be referred to in specific cases. Any external websites are provided for your information and convenience. We cannot accept responsibility for the information found on them. If you require a full list of references for this leaflet, please email sfh-tr.patientinformation@nhs.net or telephone 01623 622515, extension 6927.

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