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Royal Brompton & Harefield **NHS**
NHS Foundation Trust

Having a CT guided needle lung biopsy





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This leaflet gives general information about a CT guided needle lung biopsy. It does not replace the need for personal advice from a healthcare professional. Please ask your hospital doctor, nurse or radiographer if you have any questions.

What is a CT guided needle lung biopsy?

This is a procedure (test) where a small sample(s) of tissue (biopsy) is taken from lungs for analysis. This helps doctors to find out more about the health of your lungs. A radiologist uses a computed tomography (CT) scan to guide the needle to the area where the biopsy will be taken.

Why do I need this test?

Your hospital doctor has suggested that you have this test after discussion with a radiologist. A radiologist is a doctor who specialises in diagnosing and treating medical conditions and diseases using imaging techniques.

Your doctor will explain why he or she thinks you need this test and how it will benefit you. You can then decide if you want to go ahead with the test.

What happens if I don't have the test?

Your doctor may not have all the information needed to make a diagnosis. This may affect the type of treatment he or she can suggest for you. If this is the case, you can discuss this with your doctor.

Are there any alternatives?

Some patients may have a bronchoscopy (where a long narrow tube is passed through the nose or mouth to reach the lungs) or a surgical procedure to reach the lung tissue. Please ask your hospital doctor if you want to know more about the alternatives.



How do I prepare for the test?

On the day of the test, please eat a light breakfast and continue taking any prescribed medication as normal, unless we have given you any different or specific instructions. You will need to stay in hospital after the biopsy for about four hours.

Please bring an overnight bag with you to hospital as you may need to stay overnight (for example if there are any complications or we need to monitor you). We will discuss this with you when your appointment is made.

What happens during the procedure?

A radiographer will ask you to lie on a bed that will move through the scanner. He/she may then place a marker on your skin. A marker can be any small metallic object such as a paperclip. The marker shows up in the scan and allows us to guide the needle to the best area for the biopsy. The skin is then cleaned with antiseptic solution and numbed with a local anaesthetic. A biopsy needle is carefully inserted into the lung to take the biopsy. In order to take a good sample, this part of the test may be repeated two or three times.

How long does the procedure take?

The procedure will take 30-45 minutes. This includes the set-up time and the time to take the biopsy.

Will it hurt?

The local anaesthetic used to numb the area may sting for a few seconds. Once the area is numb, you may feel pressure from the biopsy needle as it takes the sample, but you should not feel any pain.

What happens afterwards?

We will take you back to the ward so you can rest and where you can eat and drink as usual. You will have a chest X-ray three to four hours after the biopsy. If this is normal you can go home.

If there are any complications, we may ask you to stay in hospital overnight.

Female patients

If you are pregnant, or think you may be pregnant, please tell us before the scan. We need to know whether you may be pregnant because the scan involves small amounts of radiation.

Anticoagulation medication


If you are taking any medications that thin your blood, for example aspirin, heparin, warfarin, clopidigrel or apixaban, please contact us before your appointment. These medications increase the risk of bleeding, so your medication will need to be reviewed.

Are there any risks?

All medical procedures carry some risk and the possibility that complications may arise. This procedure is considered low risk.

Sometimes a deflated lung (pneumothorax) can occur, when air leaks from the lung and gets trapped between the lung and the chest wall. If you have a pneumothorax, you may need to stay in hospital overnight for observation. A small air leak will not normally need treatment and will heal in a few days. If the air leak is large, a small tube (called a chest drain) may be inserted into the chest wall to suck out the trapped air.

Some patients may cough up a small amount of blood during or after the procedure. This is nothing to worry about, and will usually stop after a short amount of time.



The amount of radiation used is kept to a minimum. We strongly believe that the benefits of the procedure far outweigh any risks to your health. If you have any concerns about this, please contact the imaging department and a radiographer will call you back and answer your questions.

It is possible that the results will not give your consultant enough information to make a diagnosis. If this happens we may need to repeat the CT guided needle lung biopsy or recommend an alternative procedure called a bronchoscopy.

Consent (agreement)

We aim to make sure that every patient is fully informed about the risks and benefits of a procedure or treatment. Before you have the biopsy, the radiologist will ask you to sign a consent form. This records your agreement to have the procedure.

Please make sure that you understand the risks and benefits of the procedure and that it has been explained to you before you give your consent. Please ask if you have any questions.

Results of the scan

The results of your biopsy will not be available immediately. They will be sent to the doctor who is looking after you in hospital, who will discuss the results with you at your next clinic appointment, or over the phone if necessary.

Contacts and cancellations

Please contact us if you have any questions about the procedure.

If you are unable to attend your appointment for any reason, please let us know in advance. We can then give your

appointment to another patient and arrange a new appointment for you.

Harefield Hospital	01895 828 582
Royal Brompton Hospital	020 7351 8220

Where is the CT scanner?

Harefield Hospital

There are two scanners at Harefield Hospital. Both are on the ground floor in the main hospital building. Please report to the main reception desk in the X-ray department and you will be directed to the appropriate scanner.

You can see a map of Harefield Hospital on our website here: www.rbht.nhs.uk/about/locations/harefield-map

Royal Brompton Hospital

There are two CT scanners at the hospital. Please check your appointment letter to make sure you go to the correct scanner:

- Fulham Wing / South Block in the basement, or
- Sydney Street, Level 3, X-ray department.

You can see a map of Royal Brompton Hospital on our website here: www.rbht.nhs.uk/about/locations/brompton-map

If you have concerns about any aspect of the service you have received in hospital and feel unable to talk to those people responsible for your care, call the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on:

- Royal Brompton Hospital – 020 7349 7715
- Harefield Hospital – 01895 826 572

You can also email pals@rbht.nhs.uk. This is a confidential service.

Royal Brompton Hospital
Sydney Street
London
SW3 6NP
tel: 020 7352 8121
textphone: (18001) 020 7352 8121

Harefield Hospital
Hill End Road
Harefield
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UB9 6JH
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Website: www.rbht.nhs.uk

إذا كنت ترغب في الحصول على ترجمة فورية لمضمون هذه الوثيقة إلى اللغة العربية، يرجى منك الاتصال بأحد مستخدمينا بجناح المصلحة التي يتم فيها استشفائك. أحد موظفينا سيسعى لترتيب إجراءات الترجمة وإتمامها في الوقت المناسب لك.

Brosurteki bilginin Türkçe tercumesi için tedavi görüyor olduğunuz bölüme bas vurunuz. Bölüm personeli tercümenin gerçekleşmesini en kısa zamanda ayarlayacaktır.

