

Bone Marrow Aspiration and Biopsy

Lymphoma Center

About Your Bone Marrow Aspiration and Biopsy

A bone marrow aspiration and biopsy is the removal of bone marrow to make a diagnosis or to see how you are responding to treatment. Normal bone marrow produces red blood cells, white blood cells, and platelets. A bone marrow *aspiration* is the removal of a sample of the liquid part of the bone marrow. A bone marrow *biopsy* is the removal of a small chip of bone, usually from the hip bone. The breast bone may be used to withdraw marrow, but it is not used for a biopsy.

Before the Aspiration and Biopsy

You will be asked to lie on your stomach or side if the hip bone is used or to lie on your back if the breast bone is used. We will clean and then numb (anesthetize) the area before the procedure.

During the Aspiration and Biopsy

After the anesthetic has taken effect, we will insert a special needle and withdraw some cells from the bone marrow. You may feel pressure as the needle is inserted into the bone and a pulling sensation as the bone marrow is withdrawn. When a biopsy is ordered, a small bone chip is taken from the hip bone immediately after the aspiration. The procedure takes 10 - 15 minutes.

After the Aspiration and Biopsy

We will put a pressure bandage with antibiotic ointment on the site. For added pressure, sit or lie flat on a hard surface for 10-15 minutes. Walking may help relieve any discomfort after the procedure.

Special Instructions

- If the Band-Aid becomes soaked, wet, or bloody, replace it. Remove the Band-Aid 24 hours after the procedure. If the site is still bleeding, apply a new Band-Aid.
- **Do not take a tub bath for 48 hours** after a bone marrow aspirate or biopsy. You may shower 24 hours after the procedure.

When to Call Your Doctor

Call your doctor

- if you have any sign of infection: redness, swelling, or drainage at the site or a fever of 100.5°F (38°C) or higher
- If you have bleeding at the site, apply pressure and call your doctor

The Lymphoma Center is open Monday through Friday, 8:00am – 5:00pm. If you have any problems, please call us at **716-845-1642**.

After 5 pm on weekdays and during weekends and holidays, please call our Central Access Center at **716-845-2300** and they will assist you.