



What is a Bone Marrow Biopsy



Frequently asked questions

What is a Bone Marrow Biopsy?

It is a procedure whereby a needle is inserted into the bone to withdraw a small piece of tissue and some bloodlike material for microscopic examinations.

Why is a Bone Marrow performed?

Bone marrow produces red blood cells, white blood cells and platelets. The test allows examination of the cells in the various stages of development, for accurate diagnosis and planning of treatment, if necessary. They are also performed to evaluate the effectiveness of treatment.

Who will perform the procedure?

An experienced doctor, skilled in the procedure will perform the test. The doctor will discuss the procedure with you and obtain your consent prior to the procedure.

Where are the samples taken from?

Bone marrow samples are usually taken from the back of the pelvic bone. To minimise discomfort, the procedure is performed under intravenous sedation in a day procedure theatre.

How long will the biopsy take?

The entire procedure takes approximately 15 minutes.

When will the results be available?

Your doctor will receive most of the results in 2 days. Some special tests may take 1-2 weeks.

What if I have more questions?

Before the procedure, the doctor performing the test will go through the process and ask you to sign a consent form. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask.

Patient preparation and aftercare

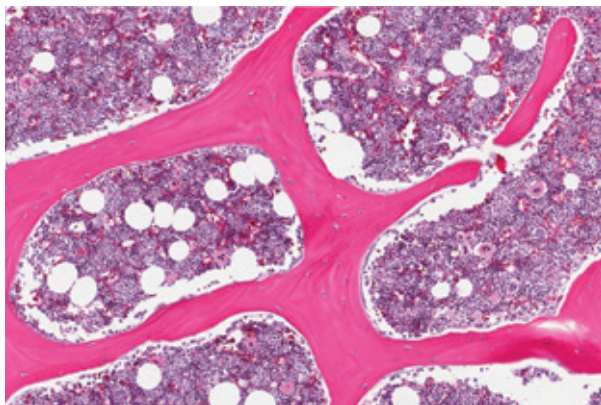
How to prepare:

The procedure nurse will contact you to arrange a suitable day and hospital for your procedure. Please provide the nurse with the following information:

- Medication list
- Any known allergies
- Bleeding problems
- If you are pregnant
- Private health fund details

Because the procedure is performed under sedation, it is important you:

- Fast (no food or fluid) for at least 6 hours prior to the procedure.
- Organise a responsible adult to pick you up approximately 2-3 hours after the procedure and stay with you for the first 24 hours after the procedure. If you cannot organise a carer, an overnight admission can be arranged.



Aftercare instructions

- You will need to lie on your back in the recovery bed for approximately an hour after the procedure to help prevent bleeding.
- To reduce the risk of bruising, it is important that you keep pressure on the biopsy site by reclining in a chair or lying on your back as much as possible for the remainder of the day.
- A sterile dressing will cover the biopsy site and you should avoid getting the site wet for 24-48 hours.
- You may experience a dull ache at the site for 1-2 days; paracetamol can be taken to reduce this discomfort.
- The medicine used to sedate you will be acting in your body for the next 24 hours so you may feel a bit sleepy.
- This feeling will slowly wear off and because of this, **for the next 24 hours YOU SHOULD NOT:**
 - Drive a car
 - Drink any alcohol
 - Make important decisions, such as sign important papers
 - Travel alone by public transport
 - Use hazardous machinery
 - Engage in sports, heavy work and heavy lifting (keep physical activity to a minimum for 48 hours after the procedure)

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Potential complications of this procedure

Complications are uncommon. Potential problems include:

Bleeding and/or bruising at the biopsy site

This is usually minor and the risk is reduced by following the post-procedure instructions.

Infection

Being an invasive procedure, it does carry a risk of infection. To reduce this risk, the procedure is performed using a sterile technique in hospital.

Fees

All Clinpath involvement, that is, the procedure and associated pathology, is bulk billed, or charged directly to the patient's health fund, which means no out-of-pocket expenses for the patient.



If you have any queries regarding the instructions, please do not hesitate to contact Dr Michael Speedy on 8366 2087.

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