

Fine Needle Aspiration

Patient Information

Leongatha Memorial Hospital Medical Imaging

What is a FNA?

A FNA is performed to examine an abnormal area of tissue. A sample containing a small collection of cells is obtained from the abnormal area and examined in a laboratory to provide a diagnosis.

What to bring:

Please bring any relevant imaging scans (film packet or a CD containing X-rays, CT scans, ultrasound or MRIs etc.).

Preparation:

You may be required to have a blood test prior to your ascitic tap to check your blood clotting levels.

Arrange for someone to take you home from your procedure.

Eating and drinking:

You may be required not to eat or drink for four hours prior to your procedure. You will be informed at the time of booking if this is necessary.

Medications — Tell staff at the time of booking if you are taking any:

- Blood thinning medications (e.g. Warfarin, Xarelto, Rivaroxaban, Pradaxa, Apixaban, Eliquis),
- Antiplatelet medications (e.g. Clopidogrel, Plavix, Aspirin)

You will be informed if you need to stop taking these medications before your procedure.

Continue taking other medications as prescribed, unless directed otherwise by medical or nursing staff prior to your procedure.

Please bring a list of all your medications with you to your appointment.

Procedure:

On arrival to the hospital a nurse will discuss with you your medical history and ask you to change into a hospital gown.

The doctor will explain the procedure and discuss with you the potential benefits and risks and you will be asked to sign a consent form.

You will be lying on a bed and the doctor will locate the area to be examined using the ultrasound and determine the safest approach to collect a sample. Your heart rate and blood pressure will be monitored during the procedure by nursing staff.

Your skin will be cleaned with antiseptic wash, and local anaesthetic will be used to numb a small section of your skin.

A small needle will be inserted through the numb patch of skin, usually two or three times, to get samples of the tissue to send to pathology for examination.

Pressure will be applied to the puncture site for a short time and then the area will be covered with a small dressing.

Post Procedure Care:

Bruising and tenderness at the procedure site is to be expected and will subside after a few days.

At home you should take simple pain relief such as paracetamol as required.

Discharge:

Generally, you will be able to go home the same day as your procedure if you have no other medical conditions or concerns that require further treatment.

You will be provided with an information sheet regarding discharge instructions upon completion of your procedure.

Results:

The results together with the procedure report will be sent to your referring doctor. Return to your doctor to discuss examination results.

Radiation Risk

Most medical imaging tests, except MRI and ultrasound, involve exposure to radiation from X-rays. Your doctor considers that the benefits of the examination you require to be greater than the small risk posed by the radiation exposure.

Any questions please contact us.

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