

Liver Biopsy

Patient Information Sheet

A biopsy is a sampling of cells or tissue from a suspicious mass. Guided by ultrasound, the radiologist has inserted a small needle into your liver to remove a sample of cells. These cells will then be examined under a microscope in the pathology department. Pathology results may take seven to ten (7-10) days for complete analysis.

We are sensitive to your needs and concerns and want to let you know your safety and well-being are our primary concern. This information will help you understand the recovery process.

Instructions after Liver Biopsy

- Rest for the remainder of the day following your procedure.
- Have a responsible adult spend the night with you following your procedure.
- Do not drive for 24 hours following your procedure.
- Do not lift anything weighing over 5 kilograms (10 pounds) for 48 hours following your procedure.
- Do not participate in sports or strenuous activity for 48 hours.

Diet

- You can eat what you normally eat.

Medications

- If needed for pain or discomfort, take Tylenol (acetaminophen) for the next 48 hours. Follow the directions on the label.
- **Do not** use Aspirin or ibuprofen products, such as Advil or Motrin, as it may increase bleeding.

Dressing Care/Sutures

- Remove the gauze dressing (Band-Aid) 24 hours after the biopsy.



Bathing

- You may shower the morning after your procedure, but keep the bandage over the biopsy site dry for the next 24 hours.
- **Do not** bathe or swim (especially in lakes) for one week as this may cause an infection at the puncture site.

What to watch for

- Unusually severe pain near the biopsy site, pain with deep breathing or difficulty breathing
- Feeling unusually faint or light-headed
- Increasing abdominal pain
- Redness, excessive swelling, or discharge from the site
- Fever more than 100°F (38°C) or chills
- Excessive bleeding and/or bloody dressing

If you experience any of the above changes, call your doctor, Telehealth Ontario (1-866-797-0000), or go to your closest Emergency Department. Take this sheet with you.

Please call as soon as possible for a follow-up appointment with your referring doctor,

Dr. _____, to discuss the results of this procedure.

