

LIVER BIOPSY

WHAT IS A LIVER BIOPSY?

A liver biopsy is a procedure by which a tiny sample of liver tissue is removed through a needle and is evaluated microscopically for liver disease.

WHY IS A LIVER BIOPSY NECESSARY?

A liver biopsy is necessary to diagnose certain liver diseases. Evidence of these diseases may be seen by enlargement of the liver, jaundice or elevated liver enzymes. The decision to perform this procedure was based upon assessment of your particular problem.

WHAT PREPARATION IS NECESSARY?

Do not eat or drink anything (even water) after midnight the night before the procedure. You will need to arrange a ride home. **NO DRIVING, NO ALCOHOL, NO STRENUOUS ACTIVITY** the remainder of the day.

WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT DURING THE TEST?

A sonogram to mark the margins of the liver will be obtained just prior to the biopsy. For the biopsy, you will be positioned lying flat on your back with your right arm extended above your head and the hand resting comfortably under your head. You will be given some light IV sedation. A local medication will be used to numb the area where the needle will be inserted.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE TEST?

After the biopsy a dressing will be applied to the puncture site. You will be turned to your right side. You will stay on your right side for 2 hours. After 2 hours you can roll to your back. You will be given something to drink. You will be discharged home approximately 3 hours after the biopsy.

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS OF A LIVER BIOPSY?

A liver biopsy has a low risk of complication when performed by physicians who are specifically trained and experienced in the procedure. Complications can occur but are uncommon.