Liverpool University Hospitals

Patient information

Ultrasound Fine Needle Biopsy Neck

Radiology Department

Before Your Examination

If you are on Warfarin or any other anti-coagulant you must phone the department as this may affect your examination.

There is no preparation for this examination. You may eat and drink normally and continue all your medication as normal.

What is an Ultrasound Fine Needle Biopsy Neck?

This test is routinely performed in the ultrasound department. It involves taking a small piece of tissue or fluid, using a fine needle. This procedure will be performed by a Radiologist and a Cytologist, who will use an ultrasound scanner for guidance.

Any alternative treatments or procedures will have been discussed at your initial consultation with your referring practitioner.

What are the benefits of this procedure?

This procedure enables the Radiologist to accurately obtain a piece of tissue from the area of interest. This will help us make the correct diagnosis so you will be able to get the correct treatment.

What are the risks of this procedure?

- The complication rate for needle biopsy under ultrasound control is much lower than for a biopsy in theatre under general anaesthetic. As a result, any complications tend to be minor.
- Bleeding can occur, and it is important to inform the doctor if you are on anticoagulant treatment. A pressure dressing would be applied over the puncture site to limit any bleeding.

If you are worried about these risks, please speak to your consultant or a member of their team.

The examination

If you are an outpatient, you may be required to change into a hospital gown if the area to be examined is underneath your clothing. There is no need to remove your glasses,

contact lenses or false teeth, but you may be required to remove jewellery, which you will be expected to look after. You will then be escorted to the ultrasound room. The Radiologist performs the pre biopsy ultrasound examination. The Cytologist performs the biopsy but other staff may also be present. A brief verbal explanation will be given of the procedure and you will be asked to sign a consent form

A small amount of gel will be spread over the part of your body to be examined. This gel allows the ultrasound scan to take place. The Cytologist will perform the biopsy by inserting the small needle under sterile conditions using ultrasound guidance.

The sample obtained is examined under the microscope to ensure adequate tissue has been obtained. If not, the biopsy may be repeated. The ultrasound and the biopsy take approximately 15 minutes each, but you may be in the department for up to two hours.

After the examination

Pressure is applied to reduce any bruising and a plaster is applied. If you are an outpatient you will normally be able to go home immediately after the examination.

If you are a ward patient you will be returned to the ward for further observation.

Do not hesitate to ask ultrasound or ward staff if you have any questions.

Results

Your results will be sent back to the doctor who requested this examination. This usually takes between seven to ten days.

Cancellations

If you are unable to keep this appointment, please let us know as soon as possible and we will arrange another for you.

If you fail to cancel and do not attend you will be discharged back to the care of the referring clinician.

Transport

If your medical condition or mobility needs mean that you cannot get to your appointment any other way and you require transport you should ring the Patient Transport Services (PTS) who will arrange one for you.

Tel: 0151 706 4676 Text phone number: 18001 0151 706 4676

Car parking

Car parking for visitors and patients is available at the Q-Park multi-storey car park located across the road from the front entrance of the hospital. Vehicle entry to the car park is on Epworth Street which is off Erskine Street. The car park is open 24 hours a day seven days a week and charges apply. The car park is continually monitored by CCTV and parking attendants.

There are disabled spaces located within the car park. If you require help with parking ask a parking host at the car park entrance. There is a bus shuttle service for patients with mobility problems which operates Monday to Friday 8.45am to 4.45pm from Q-Park to the Royal Liverpool University Hospital.

Please bring this leaflet with you when you attend the Ultrasound Department, which is located within the main X-ray Department at the Royal Liverpool Hospital.

Feedback

Your feedback is important to us and helps us influence care in the future

Following your discharge from hospital or attendance at your outpatient appointment you will receive a text asking if you would recommend our service to others. Please take the time to text back, you will not be charged for the text and can opt out at any point. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated.

Further Information

If you have any further questions, or require further information, please contact the Appointments office on Tel: 0151 706 2759 Text phone number: 18001 0151 706 2759

Author: Radiology Department Review: March 2026 All Trust approved information is available on request in alternative formats, including other languages, easy read, large print, audio, Braille, moon and electronically.

يمكن توفير جميع المعلومات المتعلقة بالمرضى الموافق عليهم من قبل انتمان المستشفى عند الطلب بصيغ أخرى، بما في ذلك لغات أخرى وبطرق تسهل قراءتها وبالحروف الطباعية الكبيرة وبالصوت وبطريقة برايل للمكفوفين وبطريقة مون والكترونيا.

所有經信托基金批准的患者資訊均可以其它格式提供,包括其它語言、易讀閱讀軟件、大字

體、音頻、盲文、穆恩體(Moon)盲文和電子格式,敬請索取。

در صورت تمایل میتوانید کلیه اطلاعات تصویب شده توسط اتحادیّه در رابطه با بیماران را به اشکال مختلف در دسترس داشته باشید، از جمله به زبانهای دیگر، به زبان ساده، چاپ درشت، صوت، خط مخصوص کوران، مون و بصورت روی خطی موجود است.

زانیاریی پێوەندیدار بە نەخۆشانەی لەلایەن **تراستەوە** پەسەند كراون، ئەگەر داوا بكرێت لە فۆرماتەكانی تردا بریتی لە زمانەكانی تر، ئیزی رید (ھاسان خوێندنەوە)، چاپی گەورە، شریتی دەنگ، ھێڵی موون و ئەلێكترۆنیكی ھەیە.

所有经信托基金批准的患者信息均可以其它格式提供,包括其它语言、易读阅读软件、大字体、音频、盲文、穆恩体(Moon)盲文和电子格式,敬请索取。

Dhammaan warbixinta bukaanleyda ee Ururka ee la oggol yahay waxaa marka la codsado lagu heli karaa nuskhado kale, sida luqado kale, akhris fudud, far waaweyn, dhegeysi, farta braille ee dadka indhaha la', Moon iyo nidaam eletaroonig ah.