

PREPARATION FOR LIVER BIOPSY

Laboratory work (blood testing) is required for this procedure. The blood **MUST** be drawn one week prior to the date scheduled for the biopsy.

Your evening meal the day before the procedure must be **FAT FREE**. Do not eat or drink anything after midnight.

Following the procedure you will have to remain in the hospital for a period up to 10 hours. You will not be able to work that day.

**YOU SHOULD NOT DRIVE FOR 24 HOURS AFTER THE PROCEDURE.
THEREFORE, YOU WILL NEED A DRIVER TO TAKE YOU HOME.**

Medication Note:

You must have been off Coumadin, Plavix, Aggrenox, aspirin, aspirin products and NSAIDs (Motrin, Voltaren, Naprosyn, ect.) for 7 days prior to your biopsy. You may use acetaminophen (Tylenol, ect).

If the above medication were prescribed by a doctor, please obtain his/ her permission before discontinuing them.

Percutaneous Liver Biopsy

Your physician has scheduled you for a percutaneous liver biopsy under ultrasound-guided technique. It will be done in the Outpatient Radiology Center at Metro Health Hospital. During the procedure a small piece of liver will be removed and then examined under a microscope to determine the extent and severity of your liver disease.

You will first register at the Special Imaging Department at Metro Health Hospital. A registered nurse will then start an IV in your arm which will be used to give you sedation during the procedure and pain medication following the procedure. She will also review a short history with you.

You will then be taken to the Ultrasound Suite where an ultrasound of the liver will be performed to determine the safest and most precise spot for the biopsy. This area will then be anesthetized with a local anesthetic similar to those utilized by your dentist and IV sedation will be given. The liver biopsy will then be performed. It involves a small nick in the skin through which a minute core of the liver tissue is removed.

Following the procedure, you will be given additional pain medication and your blood pressure will be monitored in the Ultrasound Department for a short period of time. You will then be transferred to a room in the hospital where your vital signs will be monitored until about 5 pm. You will be able to eat when you arrive in your hospital room and additional pain medication will be available for you if necessary.

When you are discharged from the hospital, you will have a large bandage over the puncture site. This area must be kept dry for 24 to 48 hours. Should the site be reddened or look infected in any way, you should contact our office immediately. You may have pain in your right side and in your arm should for a day or two following the biopsy as a result of irritation of your diaphragm, breathing muscles, during the liver biopsy.

For the next 24 to 48 hours, you should avoid any jogging, vigorous exercise or lifting since these could aggravate the biopsy site. Be sure you have an office appointment set up to review the results of the liver biopsy. It usually takes several days to have the biopsy specimen appropriately cut and stained to allow the pathologist to make this report.

Although a liver biopsy is a routine procedure, there are risks associated with it. The major one is bleeding. If this became severe, a blood transfusion might be necessary. There is a remote possibility of infection. The chances of perforation of another organ are quite low since the biopsy is performed with an ultrasound which guides correct positioning in to the liver. If you have any questions concerning these risks, do not hesitate to contact our office to obtain answers before reporting for your procedure.

You should have had coagulation studies performed prior to coming to the hospital. If you are not certain that these have been done, contact our office at least one day before your scheduled procedure.

We look forward to seeing you at the hospital for your biopsy. We will try to make this procedure as comfortable an experience as possible.