

Ultrasound Guided Liver Biopsy

Patient Information

WHAT IS ULTRASOUND?

Medical Ultrasound is a diagnostic imaging technique that uses sound waves to visualize soft tissue structures and vessels. Since it uses sound waves and not radiation to obtain images of your internal organs, it is deemed safe for use in evaluating pregnant women and patients of all ages. Ultrasound gel, used to conduct the sound waves into the body, is applied over the area to be imaged and a transducer, or probe, is placed on the surface of the gel and is used to obtain images. Ultrasound is used to guide biopsy devices into an area that is to be sampled and sent for pathology. Ultrasound is also used for determining organ size and evaluating for abnormal pathology.

HOW TO PREPARE FOR YOUR PROCEDURE:

You must have a referring physician's order. The physician's office may fax the order to our facility prior to your appointment. Please bring a list of your medications with you. **Do not have anything to eat or drink at least 6 (six) hours prior to your procedure.**

If you take blood thinners, such as, Coumadin, Plavix, Aspirin or Lovenox, you will need to contact your Primary Care Physician for permission to discontinue any of these medications prior to your procedure. Do not take any over the counter anti-inflammatory medications such as Motrin or ibuprofen.

- **Coumadin or Plavix: Discontinue 5-7 days prior to procedure**
- **Aspirin: Discontinue 4 days prior to procedure**
- **Lovenox: Discontinue 24 hours prior to procedure**

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU ARRIVE:

All patients must register in the North Patient Tower Registration 1(one) hour prior to the procedure and will need a driver after the procedure. Blood work may be required before the procedure. The Interventional Radiology Team will explain the procedure in detail and answer any questions you may have regarding the procedure. You will have an Intravenous line (IV) placed after you arrive. You will receive a local anesthetic for the procedure.

RECOVERY / HOME:

Your recovery time will be 3 hours in the Imaging Prep and Recovery area. If you receive sedation, you will need an escort to drive you home or have arrangements for someone to pick you up. We CANNOT discharge you without an escort. We will provide discharge instructions prior to discharge. Please contact your Primary Care Physician after the procedure about restarting your medications, and when your blood tests should be taken.



Northeast Georgia Health System • *Imaging Services* • www.nghs.com/Imaging

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