

Contact details

Appointments ☎ 01438 286112

Questions

If you have any questions, please telephone the Macmillan Haemato-oncology clinical nurse specialists:

Amanda Donovan **Mobile** ☎ 0788 765 0801

Hannah Druce-Collins

or

Kim Barker, Haematology CNS **Mobile** ☎ 0781 858 8764

If your call is not answered, please leave a message on the voicemail clearly stating your name and contact number and we will ring you back.

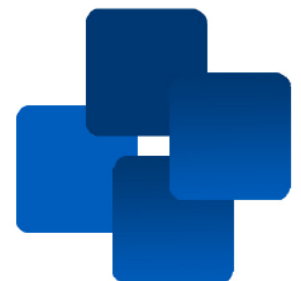
Please note, due to commitments on the wards and outpatient clinics, we cannot always return calls on the same day.

The Haematology Service

Bone Marrow Biopsy

Cancer Services

Information for Patients



Introduction

This leaflet contains information about a bone marrow biopsy.

Please inform the doctors or nurses if you have any allergies, have had reactions to any medications or are on warfarin, aspirin, ibuprofen or other blood thinning medications.

General information

Bone marrow aspiration/biopsy is a minor invasive procedure and is performed as an outpatient appointment. You will be able to drive yourself to and from the appointment and it will be safe for you to go home to an empty house after the procedure. Please take paracetamol or your normal painkiller before attending the clinic.

Why we have advised you to have a bone marrow test

Your bone marrow produces the cells in your blood. Bone marrow aspiration/biopsy tests are done to evaluate your bone marrow function. Your bone marrow produces red cells, white cells and platelets. This test allows us to study these cells in the various stages of development, to better plan your treatment.

The procedure

You will be asked to lie on a couch on your side with the lower part of your back uncovered. The back of the hipbone is the most commonly used area.

The skin will be cleaned with an iodine solution. The area will be numbed with a local anaesthetic. This is done with a small needle and can sting for a few seconds. After the anaesthetic has taken effect, a needle will be inserted and cells from the bone marrow will be taken out with a syringe.

You will feel a 'pushing' as the needle is inserted and there may be some discomfort (such as a 'pulling' feeling down the leg) during the aspiration.

The biopsy is done immediately after the aspiration. It consists of taking a small core of marrow with a special needle. Samples from the aspirate may be sent to other hospitals for further analysis.

The complete procedure from start to finish usually takes 15-20 minutes. A small dressing is then applied.

After the procedure

After the effect of the anaesthetic has worn off, you may feel some discomfort at the site of the puncture, walking may lessen this discomfort. You can take paracetamol or your normal painkillers as these will help but **do not take aspirin or ibuprofen**.

The wound should be kept dry for 24 hours. If bleeding from the wound occurs at home, lie on a firm surface with a towel rolled up under the biopsy site for 10-15 minutes. If bleeding continues contact the Haematology team or the Emergency Department.

You may experience leg pain but this is uncommon and should resolve within a week. A bruise may appear and the site may be uncomfortable.

If the site becomes red and inflamed, contact your doctor as this may be an indication of infection.