

MCRG Interventional Radiology Patient Discharge Education Post Liver Biopsy

You had a procedure called liver biopsy. A liver biopsy is a procedure to remove a small piece of liver tissue, so it can be examined under a microscope for signs of damage or disease. Your doctor may recommend a liver biopsy if blood tests or imaging studies suggest you might have a liver problem. A liver biopsy is also used to determine the severity of liver disease. This information helps guide treatment decisions.

The most common type of liver biopsy is called percutaneous liver biopsy. It involves inserting a thin needle through your abdomen into the liver and removing a small piece of tissue. Two other types of liver biopsy — one using a vein in the neck (transjugular) and the other using a small abdominal incision (laparoscopic) — also remove liver tissue with a needle.

Why is a liver biopsy done?

A liver biopsy may be done to:

- Diagnose a liver problem that can't be otherwise identified
- Obtain a sample of tissue from an abnormality found by an imaging study
- Determine the severity of liver disease — a process called staging
- Help develop treatment plans based on the liver's condition
- Determine how well treatment for liver disease is working
- Monitor the liver after a liver transplant

Your doctor may have recommended a liver biopsy if you have:

- Abnormal liver test results that can't be explained
- A mass (tumor) or other abnormalities on your liver as seen on imaging tests
- Ongoing, unexplained fevers

Home care:

Recommendations include the following:

- Because you had anesthesia, you should not drive until the day after your biopsy.
- Remove the bandage covering the biopsy site 48 hours after the procedure.
- Rest for 6 hours and take it easy when you arrive home.
- Don't shower for 24 hours after the biopsy. If you wish, you may wash yourself with a sponge or washcloth. When you are able to shower, don't scrub the site. Gently wash the area and pat it dry.
- Don't lift anything heavier than 10 pounds for up to 1 week after the procedure, or as advised by your healthcare provider.
- Don't do strenuous activities or exercises for up to 1 week after the procedure.
- Ask your healthcare provider when you can return to work.
- Do not start taking blood thinners without clear instructions from your healthcare provider.

Follow-up care:

Make a follow-up appointment as directed by your oncologist or liver doctor.

When to call your healthcare provider:

Call your healthcare provider immediately if you have any of the following:

- Bleeding from the biopsy site.
- Dizziness or lightheadedness.
- Sudden or increased shortness of breath.
- Sudden chest pain.
- Fever of 101°F (38.5°C) or higher, or as directed by your healthcare provider.
- Shaking chills.
- Yellow eyes or skin.
- Increasing redness, tenderness, or swelling at the biopsy site.
- Drainage from the biopsy site.
- Opening of the biopsy site.
- Vomiting blood.
- Rectal bleeding or bloody stools.
- Increasing pain, with or without activity, in the liver or belly area, or pain shooting to the right shoulder.

Interventional Radiology Contact Information

Office Hours 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Non-emergent questions:

Phone: (407) 649-6823 Fax: (407) 246-0374

Email: IRSupport@MCRG.com – *non urgent concerns only*

IR Clinic Scheduling:

Phone: (321) 841-8104 Fax: (407) 649-7873

Email: IRSupport@MCRG.com – *non urgent appointment requests only*

For all Urgent issues:

On nights and weekends for immediate concerns you may

Page the Interventional Radiologist at:

(321) 841-8122

Or call your Doctor.