

# Information for Patients and Carers

## FNA Scan (Fine Needle Aspiration)



## What is a Fine Needle Aspiration (FNA)?

FNA means fine needle aspiration. An FNA is a small biopsy to remove cells or fluid from a swelling or lump.

These are sent to the pathology department where they will be examined to discover what is causing the lump or swelling.

The practitioner will use ultrasound to guide the needle to the area of interest.

Ultrasound scans use sound waves to assess anatomy. The practitioner will use an ultrasound probe to visualise the area of interest and guide the needle to the area of interest.

## Important Information

Please inform us before you attend if:

- You have a latex allergy or other allergies
- You are a diabetic
- You have problems standing or require a hoist to transfer
- You are taking any anti-coagulant medication (blood thinning medication) such as Warfarin, Aspirin, Apixaban, Rivaroxaban, Clopidogrel, Ticagrelor, Edoxaban or Dabigatran

## Preparation for the scan

There are no special preparations for an FNA so you can eat, drink and take any medication as normal.

## Can you bring a relative or friend with you?

Anyone can accompany you to the hospital, but they will not usually be allowed into the room when you have your procedure.

Please note that we do not have childcare facilities, so please do not bring small children with you, unless you bring someone to look after them during your procedure.

## What happens when you arrive?

On arrival, please report to main x-ray and book in at reception.

## What happens during the examination?

Please inform the practitioner if you are allergic to latex.

A local anaesthetic may be injected to numb the area. Using ultrasound to guide the procedure the practitioner will use a fine needle to puncture the lump and remove some cells or fluid.

This should not be painful but may feel uncomfortable.

It is very important that you keep still for the procedure.

The test will take about 15 to 30 minutes.



## What happens after the examination?

The area may feel a bit sore after the procedure. If necessary, please take your normal painkillers such as paracetamol.

You may notice some bruising, but this normally settles on its own.

If the area becomes red and tender, please contact your GP as you may have an infection. Most patients can return to normal daily activity straightaway.

## Are there any side effects?

Bruising or infection are possible complications although these are rare.

## When will I receive the examination results?

The practitioner will inform you when and how you will receive your results.

## Contact details

Should you require further advice or information please contact Monday to Friday 08:30 to 16:30

**Ultrasound Appointments/Enquiries: 01772 522619**

## Sources of further information

[www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk](http://www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk)

[www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

[www.accessable.co.uk](http://www.accessable.co.uk)

[www.patient.co.uk](http://www.patient.co.uk)

[www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/veteran-aware](http://www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/veteran-aware)

<https://bepartofresearch.nihr.ac.uk/>

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[www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets](http://www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets)

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If you want to stop smoking, you can also contact Smokefree Lancashire on Freephone **08081962638**.

**Please ask a member of staff if you would like help in understanding this information.**

**This information can be made available in large print, audio, Braille and in other languages.**

Our patient information group review our leaflets regularly, if you feel you would like to feedback on this information or join our reading group please contact on email address:

[patientexperienceandinvolve@LTHTR.nhs.uk](mailto:patientexperienceandinvolve@LTHTR.nhs.uk)

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