NHS
Lancashire Teaching Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

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.

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 Dabigatron

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 during my 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
www.nhs.uk
www.accessable.co.uk
www.patient.co.uk
www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/veteran-aware
https://bepartofresearch.nihr.ac.uk/

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All our patient information leaflets are available on our website for patients to access and download:

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets

Lancashire Teaching Hospitals is a smoke-free site. Smoking is not permitted anywhere on any of our premises, either inside or outside the buildings. Our staff will ask you about your smoking status when you come to hospital and will offer you support and advice about stopping smoking this will include Nicotine Replacement Therapy to help manage your symptoms of withdrawal and the opportunity to speak to a nurse or advisor from the specialist Tobacco and Alcohol Care Team.

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:
patientexperienceandinvolvem@LTHTR.nhs.uk

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