



Information for  
patients and  
carers

## Bone Marrow Biopsy

## What is Bone Marrow?

Bone marrow is located in some of the flat bones of the body such as the sternum and the pelvic bone. It is the site of production of many of the circulating blood cells in the body. (Red cells, white cells and platelets) It can give us important information in disorders of these blood cells.

## What is a Bone Marrow Biopsy?

A bone marrow biopsy is a diagnostic test to examine bone marrow under a microscope.

Samples are usually taken from the back of the pelvic bone. A local anaesthetic is given to numb the area, a needle is inserted and samples are withdrawn through the needle.

This procedure can cause an unpleasant feeling of pressure and discomfort for a few moments. Many people have the procedure performed as an outpatient. You will be asked to stay in the department for 30 minutes after your biopsy is taken.

## Why do you need a Bone Marrow Biopsy?

Samples of bone marrow may be needed for the following reason-

- To detect any abnormal cells in the bone marrow
- To see if the bone marrow is working properly to make new cells
- To assess the effect of treatment

## What are the possible side effects?

The procedure itself may be uncomfortable as the needle enters the bone marrow cavity, but this is a temporary sensation. There are some possible side effects, as with most procedures. These include

- Bruising- this may cause discomfort for a day or two and simple pain killers may be required e.g. paracetamol
- There is a very small risk of a local infection occurring. However, the site will be covered with a sterile dressing afterwards.

This procedure will be carried out by either a doctor or a specialist nurse who has undertaken specific training for the procedure.

Before you leave the hospital, an appointment will be given to you to discuss the results of your biopsy if you haven't already got one booked.

If you have any questions about this procedure, please ask your doctor or specialist nurse.

You may eat and drink as normal before and after the test.

Appointment date \_\_\_\_\_

Appointment time \_\_\_\_\_

Patient taking aspirin, warfarin or clopidogrel?

Yes/ no (please circle relevant medication)

Patient advised to stop medication \_\_\_\_\_ days before biopsy

Appointment given by \_\_\_\_\_

## Contact details

Should you require further advice or information please contact the haematology nursing team on 01772 524161/ 524299 Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm.

## Sources of further information

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

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

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

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

[www.lymphoma.org.uk](http://www.lymphoma.org.uk)

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

Lancashire Teaching Hospitals is a smoke-free site.

On 31 May 2017 Lancashire Teaching Hospitals became a smoke-free organisation. From that date 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 including Nicotine Replacement Therapy to help manage your symptoms of withdrawal.

If you want to stop smoking you can also contact the Quit Squad Freephone 0800 328 6297.

Please ask if you would like help in understanding this information. This information can be made available in large print and in other languages.

**Gujarati:**

આ માહિતીને સમજવામાં સહાયતા જોઈતી હોય તો કૃપાકરીને પૂછો. આ માહિતી મોટા છપાણામાં અને અન્ય ભાષામાં ઉપલબ્ધ કરી શકાય છે.

**Romanian:**

Vă rugăm să întrebați dacă aveți nevoie de ajutor pentru înțelegerea acestor informații. Aceste informații pot fi puse la dispoziție în format mare și în alte limbi.”

**Polish:**

Poinformuj nas, jeśli potrzebna jest ci pomoc w zrozumieniu tych informacji. Informacje te można również udostępnić dużym drukiem oraz w innych językach

**Punjabi:**

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਸਮਝਣ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਮਦਦ ਲੈਣੀ ਚਾਹੋਗੇ ਤਾਂ ਕਰਿਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਇਸ ਬਾਰੇ ਪੁੱਛੋ। ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਵੱਡੇ ਪ੍ਰਿੰਟ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰਨਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਮੁਹੱਈਆ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ।

**Urdu:**

دو سر ی زبانوں او ر بڑی اگر آپ کو ہی معلومات سمجھنے کے بے ل مدد یک ضرورت ہے تو ییچھیا جس ییہ ابی دست ہو یسکت ہے براے مہر یان پوے یچھہی۔ معلومات

**Arabic:**

مطوبعة بأ ح ر ف ك بيرة و بلغات إذا كنت تريد مساعدة في فهم هذه لمعلومات يُر جى أن. تطلب  
أخرى بملكن تو فيير هذه المعلومات

**Department:** Haematology

**Division:** Surgery

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