

Image-Guided Biopsy

A **biopsy** is a small sample of tissue or fluid taken from the body. This sample can then be studied in a laboratory. Image-guided biopsy allows a sample to be taken from an abnormal mass without the need for surgery. This procedure is done by a specially trained doctor called an **interventional radiologist**.



Before the Procedure

Follow any instructions you are given on how to prepare, including:

- Do not eat or drink anything for hours before the procedure.
- Tell your technologist what medications, herbs, or supplements you take; if you are, or may be, pregnant; or if you are allergic to any medications.

During the Procedure

- You will change into a hospital gown and lie on an x-ray table. You may lie on your back, front, or side, depending on the location of the area to be biopsied.
- An **IV** (intravenous) line is started to give you fluids and medications. You may be given medication through the IV to help you relax.
- The skin over the biopsy site is cleaned. A local anesthetic is applied to numb the skin.
- Using **CT** (computed tomography), x-ray, or ultrasound images as a guide, the radiologist puts a thin, hollow needle through the skin and guides it to the area to be biopsied.
- The needle is used to take a sample of tissue or fluid from the area. The needle is then removed. The sample is sent to the pathologist who looks for abnormal cells.



After the Procedure

- You will most likely be able to go home within a few hours.
- Care for the insertion site as directed.

Risks and Complications

Potential risks and complications of image-guided biopsy include:

- Bruising or bleeding at the needle insertion site
- Bleeding internally
- Damage to structures along the path of the needle