

**Patient
Information**

Bone marrow biopsy

Introduction

This leaflet provides information about having a bone marrow biopsy.

What is bone marrow biopsy?

A bone marrow biopsy is a simple procedure, often carried out in an outpatients setting.

A small sample of bone marrow is removed usually from the back of your hip bone (iliac crest) and examined for various blood cell abnormalities.

Risks

There are no serious risks involved in this procedure, although occasionally some people will have discomfort and bruising around the procedure site.

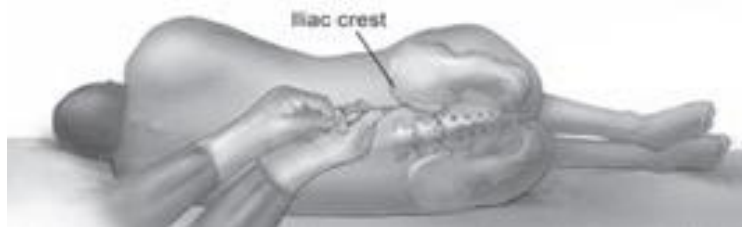


Figure 1: Image of site of procedure

Having a bone marrow biopsy

The whole procedure lasts about 20 to 30 minutes. You will be able to remain in your own clothing as long as your back is accessible. You will be asked to lie on your side on an examination couch. You will then be given a local anaesthetic to numb the area while the procedure is being performed.

If you are taking medication to thin your blood such as rivaroxaban or warfarin, these may need to be stopped a few days before the biopsy. Please contact the team on the numbers at the end of this leaflet to discuss further before your appointment.

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Department

Haematology

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A small dressing will be applied to the biopsy site and should be kept dry and in place for 24 hours. After this time, it can be removed.

You can go home immediately after the procedure. Some people can feel very anxious or frightened, if this is the case, please tell the doctor/nurse who will help you to relax and reassure you.

Side effects

The biopsy site may ache when the local anaesthetic wears off. If this is the case, mild pain relief should be enough to ease any discomfort.

If you are unsure of what to take, please speak to the doctor or nurse who will be happy to help you.

Contact information

If you have any bleeding, bruising or swelling at the biopsy site, which lasts more than 2 to 3 days please contact either of the departments below:

Haematology Department (LINC)

Cheltenham General Hospital

Tel: 0300 422 4057

Monday to Friday, 9:00am to 5:00pm

Edward Jenner Unit

Gloucestershire Royal Hospital

Tel: 0300 422 5299

Monday to Friday, 9:00am to 5:00pm

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