

Liver biopsy

To help with your diagnosis and treatment, we have asked you to come to the hospital for a sample of your liver tissue to be taken. Patients are admitted via theatre direct or direct to Newlyn.

A doctor or specialist nurse practitioner will see you before your procedure to answer any questions you may have and to ask you to sign a consent form.

We need you to have a blood test at your GP surgery before you attend for your procedure. Ideally this would be 3-4 days beforehand but any time between now and your procedure is fine. Please inform your GP that this blood test is for INR, full blood count and platelets, this is to check how well your blood will clot and your GP can explain these terms to you.

This procedure is carried out by a doctor or specialist nurse practitioner, usually in the Newlyn Department. We will use an ultrasound machine to help find the correct place to do the biopsy. Local anaesthetic is used to numb the area, and then a needle is inserted to take a sample.

After your procedure you will:

- lie on your right side for one hour
- then lie on your back for one hour
- then sit up for one hour
- then get out of bed to gently mobilise.

During this time a nurse will:

- record your pulse and blood pressure regularly
- check the biopsy site
- ensure that you are comfortable.

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It's not uncommon to experience a little discomfort or a little bruising after this type of procedure. Very rarely, bleeding may occur after the procedure. If this happens, you will need to stay in hospital.

If there are no complications you should be able to go home four to six hours after your procedure.

You will not be allowed to drive for 24 hours after the procedure. So please arrange for someone to collect you and stay with you for 24 hours.

A doctor or specialist nurse practitioner will see you before you go home, but you will not receive the results of your biopsy until you attend the outpatient clinic. We will also send the results to your GP. The hospital will send you this clinic appointment through the post.

If you take Warfarin or any other drugs to thin your blood, please contact us on 01872 252290 before you attend for your appointment.

If you have any questions please contact the X-Ray Department on 01872 252290.

If you would like this leaflet in large print, braille, audio version or in another language, please contact the General Office on 01872 252690