



referred to Radiology for your biopsy, please do not eat or drink anything past midnight prior to your biopsy.

- Tell your doctor if you have any reactions to medicines, or are allergic to iodine, lidocaine or band aids.
- Use the bathroom right before the biopsy so you will not need to go too soon after the biopsy.

### **What Will Happen During My Liver Biopsy?**

1. The doctor examines the lower right side of your chest and stomach to find the best area for the biopsy.
2. The area is cleaned with iodine and alcohol. Sterile paper towels are placed around the cleaned area.
3. The area is made numb with lidocaine. This stings briefly.
4. A tiny cut is made in your skin. You should not feel this.
5. The doctor passes the biopsy needle quickly into and out of the liver through the cut. You may feel a pushing sensation or a pinch. Stop breathing when the doctor asks you to do so. Follow the doctor's instructions during the biopsy.
6. A band aid is placed over the cut. The biopsy is finished.

### **What Will Happen After My Liver Biopsy?**

1. After the biopsy, you will lie on your right side for an hour or two. This will put pressure on the biopsy site. You will be carefully watched during the next two to six hours. You will stay in bed and a nurse will check your pulse and blood pressure often. You may have some discomfort in your shoulder or neck. This should be mild and will go away in an hour or two. You may be given a painkiller if needed.
2. If a problem occurs, you will have to stay in the hospital. If there are no problems, you can go home two to six hours after the test (determined by the doctor). You will not be allowed to leave alone. An adult must take you home. You may not drive yourself.
3. You should rest the day of the biopsy.

### **Over The Next 24 Hours...**

- You can return to your normal activities the next day.
- Avoid playing sports.
- No heavy lifting and straining for the next two days.

### **What Are The Risks Of A Liver Biopsy?**

- The main risk of liver biopsy is bleeding from the spot where the needle entered your liver. This occurs in less than 1 of every 1000 patients.

- Other problems include the puncture of other organs, such as the lung, gallbladder, kidney or colon.
- Puncture of the liver itself can lead to the leakage of bile into the stomach cavity. This may cause pain that may last for a few hours, but it is rarely dangerous.

### **Call The Doctor If You...**

- Have increasing pain, dizziness or trouble breathing.
- Fever or chills.
- Swelling or redness at the site of the liver biopsy.

If you have problems, call your specialist. If this is after regular business hours, page the "GI Doctor on Call" through the MUSC Paging Operator at (843) 792-2123.

**Use this space below to write down the questions you want to ask the doctor. We want you to be as comfortable as possible with your liver biopsy.**

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