

# LUNG BIOPSY

**My test is on:** \_\_\_\_\_

- A CT guided lung biopsy is a test that looks for inflammation or cancer.
- During the test, a radiologist uses a CT scanner to take a picture, and then put a very thin needle into your lung.
- Sometimes, more than one CT guided lung biopsy is needed.

## **WHAT ARE THE RISKS OF A CT GUIDED LUNG BIOPSY?**

A CT guided lung biopsy is a common test at Michael Garron Hospital. Some risks include:

- Mild pain where the needle goes in. You will get local freezing to lower this risk.
- Infection. A sterile germ-free technique is used to lower this risk.
- Bleeding and/or coughing up blood. A small needle is used to lower this risk.
- Radiation. CT scans use x-rays. X-rays may very slightly increase your risk of getting cancer at some point in your life. The risk of x-rays causing cancer is low.
- Lung collapse. About 3% of patients (3 out of 100 patients) need a small chest tube to help re-expand the lung. If you need a tube, you will need to stay at the hospital overnight.

Risks are generally low. Risks depend on your baseline health. You should talk to your doctor about your specific risks.

Because there are some risks, you will be asked to sign a consent form.

**If you have these symptoms after your test, call your doctor and/or go to the Emergency Department right away.**

- You have a high fever.
- You are coughing up a lot of blood (more than 1-2 tablespoons).
- You have shortness of breath.
- You have chest pain.

**If you need to cancel** your test, tell your doctor's office and the Diagnostic Imaging Department as soon as possible.

You can contact the Diagnostic Imaging Department at: 416-469-6401, 416-469-6580 ext. 2310, [imaging@tehn.ca](mailto:imaging@tehn.ca)

## WHAT SHOULD I DO TO GET READY FOR MY TEST?

- Do not eat or drink anything after midnight the night before your test.
- Tell your doctor what medications you take.
- Tell your doctor any drug allergies you have.
- Tell your doctor if you have **diabetes**. You may need to stop taking your diabetes medications (like insulin) before your test.
- Tell your doctor if you are on **blood thinners or Aspirin products**.
- Tell your doctor if you are **pregnant**.
- Get **bloodwork** done **one week prior** to your lung biopsy if told to do so by your doctor.
- **Do not drive yourself** to your test. You may get a sedative for your test. You will not be able to drive home. An adult friend or family member must bring you home from your test (even if you took a taxi or public transit).

Plan to be at the hospital for **6 hours**.

The test takes about 60 minutes.

## WHAT SHOULD I DO THE DAY OF MY TEST?

- Follow all directions your doctor gave you about how to get ready for your test.
- Bring your health card to your test.
- Bring your puffer medications to your test (if you are on any).
- Register at **Patient Registration** when you get to the hospital. Patient Registration is on the first floor in the M wing.
- Check in at the **Diagnostic Imaging Department** after you have registered. The Diagnostic Imaging Department is **on the first floor in the H wing**.

Come to the hospital for **7:30am** on the day of your test.

## WHAT WILL HAPPEN DURING MY TEST?

- You will get an intravenous line (IV).
- You will get local freezing in your skin.
- You will have the biopsy needle inserted into your lung by the radiologist doctor. The doctor will use a CT scan to help show where the needle needs to go. The doctor will take several samples.

## WHAT WILL HAPPEN AFTER MY TEST?

- You will go to the recovery area. You will have chest x-rays to check there is no lung collapse.
- You can go home once the nurse tells you it is safe to leave. You will be discharged with the adult friend or family member that is taking you home.
- You can't drive or operate machinery for the next 24 hours.
- You must have an adult friend or family member stay with you for 24 hours after your test.
- You must see your doctor for your results.
- You can't book a flight or scuba dive until your doctor says it is ok.