

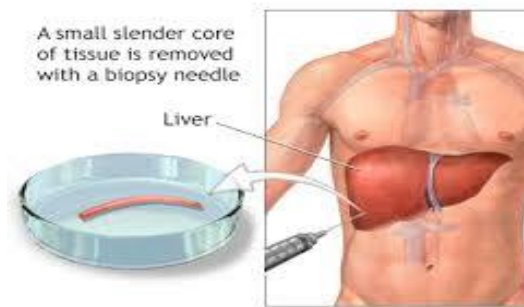
Ultrasound guided Liver biopsy

This leaflet tells you about having an ultrasound guided liver biopsy. It explains what is involved and what the possible risks are. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to speak to a doctor or nurse caring for you in the Radiology department.

What is a liver biopsy?

A liver biopsy is a way of taking a tiny sample of the liver from your body, using a biopsy needle passed through the skin. This allows the doctors to look at the sample under a microscope for abnormalities

An ultrasound scanner is the most used equipment for this procedure. Ultrasound uses high frequency sound waves and computers it shows images of the organs and other structures inside the body. It is used to visualise the biopsy needle as it passes into the liver.



What are the risks?

Ultrasound guided liver biopsy is a very safe procedure, but as with any medical procedure there are some risks and complications that can arise.

The risk of having excessive bleeding from the biopsy site is between 1 in 500 and 1 in 1,000. If bleeding occurs, a blood transfusion may be needed.

To stop the bleeding the patient may have an x-ray guided procedure called embolization in which the blood vessel causing the problem is sealed off.

Other risks are much rarer and include puncture of other internal organs or infection. The risk of death because of a liver biopsy is 1 in 10,000.

Unfortunately, some biopsies fail to give an answer. This may be because the piece of tissue which has been obtained is normal tissue rather than abnormal. Or there may not be enough tissue to make a definite diagnosis. The radiologist performing the biopsy will discuss these risks with you and answer any questions you may have.

Before your procedure:

You will need to have a blood test before the procedure to check that you are not at increased risk of bleeding and that it will be safe to take the biopsy.

If you are taking Warfarin, Clopidogrel, aspirin or other blood thinning medications (such as Phenindione, Dabigatran, Rivaroxaban, Apixaban, Prasugrel), please inform the Radiology department at least one week before the procedure. These will need to be stopped for up to 5 days before the examination. Please continue to take all your other medications as usual. You will be asked not to eat for 4 hours before the procedure, although you can drink small amounts of clear fluids, such as water. If you are a diabetic your blood sugar levels will need to be monitored to ensure they remain within stable limits.

What happens on the day of your procedure?

The procedure will take place in the Radiology department.

The Radiologist is a doctor specially trained to interpret X-rays and scans and to perform image-guided procedures; they will explain their role and what the procedure entails as well as answering any questions you or your family may have.

Radiology nurses and radiology health care assistants (HCA) are healthcare professionals trained to assist the radiologist in preparing and caring for patients undergoing scans and image-guided procedures.

Consent – asking for your consent

The radiologist will ask you if you want the procedure to go ahead. This is called verbal consent. If you do not wish to have the biopsy or are undecided, please tell the radiologist. It is your decision to go ahead, and it is fine to change your mind at the last minute. If you do want to go ahead with the procedure, then you will be asked to sign a document to confirm that.

Students/trainees may be present during the examination, but only with your consent.

Please remember that you can ask any questions you have at any time before, during or after your scan.

What happens during the liver biopsy?

You will remain in your hospital bed and asked to lie on your back or left side with your right arm above your head. An ultrasound scan of the liver will first be performed to select the best site for the inserting the biopsy needle.

The skin over the liver will be cleaned with antiseptic fluid and covered with a sterile drape. The radiologist will inject some local anaesthetic to numb the area. This will sting for a few seconds.

The biopsy needle will be passed through the skin into selected area of the liver under ultrasound guidance. You may be asked to hold your breath and keep still while the biopsies are taken. It may be necessary to perform 2-3 passes of the biopsy needle to obtain a sufficient tissue sample. You will feel some minor discomfort as the biopsy is taken. Pain relief can be given.

What happens after your liver biopsy?

You will be taken back to your ward, where you will need to rest in bed for 4 hours. You may be asked to lie on your right side to put pressure on the biopsy site and reduce any

chance of bleeding. You will have your pulse, blood pressure and your temperature taken to ensure there have been no complications.

About 1 in 5 patients will experience some pain from having a liver biopsy. This may either be felt over the liver (right upper abdomen) or in the right shoulder. Simple analgesia will alleviate this to make things comfortable. It is very unusual for the pain to be severe enough to stop you from going home on the same day. Some soreness may persist for up to a week.

You can eat and drink normally unless instructed otherwise by your doctor. You will be discharged the same day. We would recommend that you do not drive home after the procedure, and that you are accompanied. Please ensure that you have arranged transport home prior to the biopsy. Avoid strenuous activity for two days following the biopsy.

The scan will be reported by the radiologist and the report will be sent to your referring doctor or other professional who referred you for the scan.

When will I get the biopsy results?

The biopsy specimens will be sent for examination. Typically, it can take 10 days for the biopsy to be processed in the pathology laboratory and for a report to be sent to the doctor who arranged the procedure. Once the results are available, your doctors will discuss these with you.

Image sharing

Your images will be electronically stored on the hospital picture archiving system. This data can be accessed throughout the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust and other doctors and health care professionals who are directly involved in your care. The ability to share images and radiological reports will improve the safety and quality of your care by ensuring that the right information is available in the right place at the right time.

To improve the medical services, we provide we may also use your data as anonymously as possible for internal audit and medical education. If you would prefer that your data is not used for these purposes, please inform a member of staff when you attend for your examination.

If your data is to be used for research, then a separate consent process will be used. You will be asked for your consent, should this be the case.

For general information about Radiology departments, visit The Royal College of Radiologists' website: <https://www.rcr.ac.uk/public-and-media/what-expect-when>

Contact us

If you have any queries, we will be happy to answer any questions on the day of your procedure you can contact us on the number given on your appointment letter.

Feedback

We hope you found the information in this leaflet helpful. If it did not tell you what you needed to know or you would like to provide any feedback on your experience, please let us know so that we can make any necessary improvements.

You can provide feedback on your experience:

Telephone: **028 9504 8000** (Monday-Friday: 9am-4pm)

Textphone: **18001 028 950 48000**

By email: compliments@belfasttrust.hscni.net

By email: complaints@belfasttrust.hscni.net

By completing an online form: <http://www.belfasttrust.hscni.net/contact/FeedbackForm.htm>

Care Opinion



We invite you to share your experience by clicking the following link:

<https://www.careopinion.org.uk/>

or by scanning the following QR code on your smartphone or tablet:



Language and accessible support services

Deaf/ Hard of Hearing

If a Sign Language interpreter is required, please either telephone **028 9615 8900** via the Sign Video remote interpreting service (<https://signvideo.co.uk/deaf-community/>) or email us at MPHAdminFOH@belfasttrust.hscni.net and we will arrange one for your appointment. Please have your H&C number ready when calling or include it in your email. This can be found at the top right corner of any Health and Social Care letters you may have received.

If you are unable to hear on the phone and need to contact us with regards to your appointment you can email us at MPHAdminFOH@belfasttrust.hscni.net

Do you need this information in another format or language? The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format, including Braille, large print, CD, audio tape please contact the telephone number **028 9615 8900** or e-mail address MPHAdminFOH@belfasttrust.hscni.net, and we will do our best to meet your needs.

Polish - Czy potrzebujesz tych informacji w innym formacie lub języku?

Fundusz ma dostęp do usług w zakresie tłumaczeń ustnych i pisemnych. Jeśli potrzebujesz tych informacji w innym języku lub formacie, w tym w piśmie Braille'a, dużym druku, na płycie CD, kasecie magnetofonowej, skontaktuj się z nami pod numerem telefonu lub adresem e-mail **028 9615 8900 / MPHAdminFOH@belfasttrust.hscni.net**, a my dołożymy wszelkich starań, aby spełnić Twoje potrzeby.

Arabic - هل تحتاج هذه المعلومات بصيغة أو بلغة أخرى؟

تستطيع الجمعية توفير خدمات الترجمة الفورية والتحريرية. إذا احتجت هذه المعلومات بلغة أو بصيغة أخرى، بما فيها صيغة برايل Braille أو صيغة بالأحرف الكبيرة، أو في سي دي CD أو في شريط مسموع، يُرجى الاتصال برقم التليفون أو عبر البريد الإلكتروني MPHAdminFOH@belfasttrust.hscni.net / [028 9615 8900](tel:02896158900)، وسوف نبذل قصارى جهدنا في تلبية احتياجاتك.

Lithuanian - Ar jums reikia šios informacijos kitu formatu ar kalba?

Tarnyba gali suteikti vertimo žodžiu ir raštu paslaugas. Jei reikia šios informacijos kita kalba ar formatu, įskaitant Brailio raštą, didelį šriftą, kompaktinį diską, garso įrašą, skambinkite telefonu arba susisiekite el. paštu MPHAdminFOH@belfasttrust.hscni.net / [028 9615 8900](tel:02896158900) ir mes padarysime viską, kad patenkintume jūsų poreikius.

Romanian - Aveți nevoie de aceste informații într-un alt format sau altă limbă?

Trustul are acces la servicii de interpretariat și traducere. Dacă aveți nevoie de aceste informații într-o altă limbă sau într-un alt format, inclusiv Braille, tipărire cu caractere de mari dimensiuni, CD, înregistrare audio, atunci vă rugăm să ne contactați la numărul de telefon sau la adresa de e-mail MPHAdminFOH@belfasttrust.hscni.net / [028 9615 8900](tel:02896158900), iar noi vom face tot posibilul pentru satisfacerea necesităților dumneavoastră.

Tetum - Ita presiza atu informasaun ida ne'e iha formatu ka lian seluk ka lae?

Fidusiáriu ida ne'e iha asesu ba servisu durubasa no tradusaun. Se Ita presiza informasaun ida ne'e iha lian ka formatu seluk, inklui letra Braile, letra boot, CD, kasete audio, entau favór telefone númeru ka enderesu e-mail MPHAdminFOH@belfasttrust.hscni.net / [028 9615 8900](tel:02896158900), no ami sei halo esforsu tomak atu kumpre Ita-nia nesesidade sira.