



My child needs a Liver Biopsy - Information for Parents or Carers

This leaflet aims to answer some of the questions you may have about your child undergoing a liver biopsy procedure. It explains the risks and the benefits of the procedure and what you can expect when you and your child comes to hospital.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to speak to the staff caring for your child.

What is a liver biopsy?

The liver is the second largest organ in the body (the skin is the first) and is located in the top right hand side of the abdomen. It makes proteins that travel around in the blood, and also breaks down waste products so they can be passed out in urine (wee) or faeces (poo).

Liver biopsies are carried out under ultrasound. A liver biopsy is a short procedure to remove a small piece of liver tissue by inserting a needle through the skin into the area of interest in the liver. It can then be examined under a microscope and tested chemically in the laboratories.

A liver biopsy is usually suggested when a child has an abnormally large liver or abnormal blood results, which indicate that the liver is not working properly.

A liver biopsy can also be used to monitor disease, for instance hepatitis, or the effects of treatment, such as chemotherapy. The doctors can tell a certain amount by examining your child's blood, but there is some information that can only be obtained by a liver biopsy – for example the diagnosis of some metabolic disorders. The reason for your child's biopsy will be discussed with you fully by your child's doctors.

Who carries out the procedure?

An Interventional Radiologist will carry out the liver biopsy, they will be supported by a Radiographer and nursing team. All staff are trained professionals in this type of procedure.

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What are the risks of having a liver biopsy?

Your child's Anaesthetist and Radiologist will discuss any side effects or complications with you, but possible complications include:

- **Localised pain** - Some children may get a little bit of pain (like a bruise pain). Usually, it is a dull ache rather than a sharp pain, often felt in the right shoulder, rather than the abdomen. Paracetamol is usually enough to help this.
- **Bleeding** - There is also a small risk of significant bleeding. If this occurs, it usually starts within a few hours of the biopsy, but can rarely happen up to 15 days after the procedure. Your child will be closely monitored for the first few hours after the procedure to reduce this risk.
- **Infection** - Infection around the biopsy site, or rarely, in the liver – you can help reduce this risk by keeping the biopsy site clean and dry. An infection needs to be treated with antibiotics, medicines to kill the germs.

Are there any alternatives?

Your referrer has decided that a liver biopsy would be the most useful in your child's case. The examination will help the referrer to assess plan any further treatment that might be necessary. If you would like more information about alternative imaging tests, please speak to the doctor or health care professional managing your care.

Before your procedure:

Consent

We want you to be involved in all the decisions about your child's care and treatment. Your child's radiologist will discuss any risks to your child with you and they will answer any questions you have before the procedure. If you choose to go ahead, you will be asked to sign a consent form. This confirms that you agree for your child to have the procedure and understand everything involved.

The Royal Victoria Hospital and Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children are teaching hospitals and as such, university students may attend, with your permission.

Fasting

Your child will be asked not to eat or drink anything for 6 hours before the procedure.

What happens before the procedure?

Please attend the appropriate department as stated on your appointment letter with your child. The ward staff will help to prepare your child for their procedure; this will include completing a theatre checklist and taking a blood sample. There are also play specialists there to help your child understand what is going to happen. We will discuss with you whether your child needs to come in the night before or on the day of the biopsy.

Your child will need to have a general anesthetic for this procedure. It is important that your child does not eat or drink anything for a few hours before the anesthetic. This is called 'fasting' or 'nil by mouth'. Fasting reduces the risk of stomach contents entering the lungs during and after the procedure. You will be informed the night before the procedure of the time that your child should be 'nil by mouth' – in other words, have nothing to eat or drink before the anesthetic.

What happens during the Liver Biopsy?

Your child will be transferred onto the X-ray table. Monitors will be attached to record heart rate and blood pressure. Once your child is under general anesthetic or has local, they will lay on their back. The exact position of the area in the liver to be biopsied is confirmed using an ultrasound scan.

Local anesthetic is injected under the skin at the biopsy site and along the path between the skin and the liver. The only cut that is made is a tiny nick in the skin to allow the biopsy needle to enter more easily. This nick is 2mm to 3mm long and is so small that it does not need a stitch afterwards.

The biopsy needle has a hollow center, and when it is removed, it brings a very fine core of liver with it. This is about the size of a grain of rice and is approximately 1cm to 2cm long. This will not affect liver function. Usually two or three samples are taken so that enough tissue is available for testing in our laboratories.

The biopsy site will be covered with a dressing. The area usually oozes slightly straight after the procedure, but this will stop when pressure is applied to the site.

Duration

The procedure is performed in the Children's x-ray department and should take approximately 1 hour.

Whilst we try to accommodate all patients at their appointed time, occasionally emergencies arise which may delay your child's procedure or result in an extend length of time in the ward prior to the procedure. If your child's procedure is cancelled due to an emergency, it will be reappointed for the next available slot.

What happens after your Liver biopsy?

You will be given information on caring for your child at home after their biopsy procedure. It is important to keep the dressing dry and in place for two to three days after the procedure. This helps the biopsy site to heal and reduces the risk of scarring. The dressing can then be removed.

Your child may feel uncomfortable for a couple of days afterwards and may experience a dull ache in the area where the biopsy was taken. It is fine to give your child paracetamol (given according to the instructions on the bottle) unless you have been advised otherwise.

When you get home your child should take it easy and not run around or ride a bike for two weeks. We advise that they stay off school for two days after the biopsy. Your child should avoid contact or impact sports such as rugby, football, trampolining or horse riding for the next four weeks to allow the liver to heal properly.

You should call the ward if:

- The biopsy site is very painful – for example, normal pain relief is not helping and your child is unable to play, get up or walk in the days after discharge.
- There is any oozing or bleeding from the biopsy site.
- Your child develops a fever.

Results and follow-up

You may be able to discuss your child’s procedure with the performing Interventional Radiologist once it is complete. The performing Interventional Radiologist will dictate a formal report on the procedure, and it will be attached to your child’s images on our Radiology Information System (RIS). A copy of the report will be sent by Radiology to the referring clinician. The referring clinician will arrange any follow up.

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.

In order 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.

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Contact us

If you have any queries, we will be happy to answer any questions before or after your child's procedure and you can contact us on the number given on your appointment letter.

For procedures performed at the Royal Victoria Hospital

Please email: InterventionRadRVH@belfasttrust.hscni.net

Tel: 02896156661 Interventional Radiology Secretary RVH

For procedures performed at the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children

Tel: 02896150289 Children's X-ray Reception Desk.

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، يُرجَى الاتصال برقم التليفون أو عبر البريد الإلكتروني **MPHAdminFOH@belfasttrust.hscni.net / 028 9615 8900**، 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** ir mes padarysime viską, kad patenkintume jūsų poreikius.

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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**, 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 Braille, letra boot, CD, kasete audio, entaun favór telefone número ka enderesu e-mail **MPHAdminFOH@belfasttrust.hscni.net / 028 9615 8900**, no ami sei halo esforsu tomak atu kumpre Ita-nia nesesidade sira.