

Ultrasound-Guided Biopsy

About the examination

An ultrasound-guided biopsy is an image guided procedure which uses ultrasound technology to help specialist radiologists perform needle biopsies.

An ultrasound or sonogram is a common procedure which uses sound waves to create images that is used in diagnostics and monitoring of different conditions. The ultrasound itself is a pain-free procedure.

A needle biopsy involves insertion of a needle to gather tissue samples from lesions inside the body. You may experience some discomfort when the needle is injected.

Why do I need the procedure?

You need it when the doctor requires a tissue sample to secure a correct diagnosis. The assessment of the tissue sample will determine your treatment.

How do I prepare?

If you are regularly taking any blood thinning medication, you may be asked to stop for a couple of days before the procedure. Please contact us if this is the case.

You need to be in a fasted state for 4 hours leading up to the procedure. This means no food or beverages, no smoking, and you can't use gum or hard candy.

Where do I show up for my appointment?

You need to report to the radiology desk (Røntgensranke) on the first floor, and then take a blood sample, also on the first floor. Then go to Gynekologisk Poliklinikk on the third floor. A nurse will show you to a bed where you will need to change into a hospital gown. A hospital porter will take you in the bed to the examination room. If you are anxious about the procedure we can offer you an anti-anxiety pill.

How is the procedure done?

You will lie down on an examination table and a local anesthetic will be administered; not all biopsies require local anesthetic. You will be awake for the entire procedure. A gel will be applied to the skin and the ultrasound will be passed over the area so that the doctor can see, via a monitor, where to insert the needle.

Once the correct area has been located the needle will be carefully inserted and a tissue sample will be collected, several samples may be required. The entire process will be guided by ultrasound imaging.

How long does the procedure take?

Usually not longer than 10-30 minutes. It depends on where the lesion is located. The doctor performing the procedure wants to make sure that she/he finds the best angle for the needle, therefore the ultrasound procedure itself may take longer.

What happens after the procedure is done?

The porter will take you back to your room where a nurse will monitor you for 2-4 hours, depending on where the tissue sample was taken from. Normally you can eat within an hour. The nurse will monitor your heart rate, blood pressure and check to see if there are any signs of bleeding.

A dressing will be applied to the incision site, this needs to stay on for 24 hours.

When do I get my results?

The tissue sample will be sent to a pathologist who will examine the tissue under a microscope. You will usually get the results within 1-3 weeks depending on the urgency of your diagnostic.

Is there any risk of complications?

Usually no risk of complication. In rare cases a bleeding can occur. If you experience any sudden pain you should contact the hospital, and ask to speak to the gynecologist on call.