

FINE NEEDLE ASPIRATION +/- CORE BIOPSY

What is Fine Needle Aspiration and Core Biopsy?

A Fine Needle Aspiration (FNA) is performed using a needle to collect a sample of a mass or lump. The sample is then sent to Pathology to determine what the sample is.

Core Biopsy uses a slightly larger needle than FNA. It involves taking a larger sample of the mass.

FNA +/- Core Biopsy is performed on many types of masses. These include:

- Breast
- Thyroid
- Deep organs
- Superficial soft tissue lumps

Preparation

If you are on blood thinning agents such as Warfarin or Clopidogrel, you will need to see your doctor prior to the procedure as these medications may need to be ceased.

Fine Needle Aspiration Procedure

This involves a small needle to be passed through the skin and into the mass. A syringe is attached to the end of the needle. The syringe plunger is then moved up and down to draw out a sample of cells and other material into the syringe.

The needle is then removed and the sample of cells placed onto a glass slide. These slides are then sent to Pathology and examined under a microscope.

The procedure is performed by a Radiologist using ultrasound guidance. The Radiologist may decide during the procedure, that a core biopsy would be more beneficial to the diagnosis than an FNA. You will be advised of this change in procedure.

Core Biopsy Procedure

The Radiologist will inject a small amount of local anesthetic into the area where the needle will be inserted. The local anesthetic will sting for a moment before making the area numb, allowing the Radiologist to perform the procedure with less discomfort for you.

The Radiologist will make a small cut in the skin and place the needle through the cut and into the mass to remove a small piece of tissue. The sample will then be sent to Pathology. This can be done using CT or ultrasound guidance.



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Risks of FNA +/- Core Biopsy

- Bleeding and collection of blood at the biopsy site
- Pain or discomfort which can be controlled with paracetamol
- Infection
- During a core biopsy there is a slight chance the needle could pass through an organ and into the surrounding structures. e.g. Breast core biopsy, there is a very slight chance that the needle will pass through the chest wall allowing air around the lung, leading to a collapsed lung. This is a very rare occurrence.

Post Procedure

Your doctor will receive the results from the biopsy. It can take up to a week for the results to come back. If the diagnosis remains uncertain after the procedure, surgical biopsy may be required.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact Medical Imaging reception on (03) 5352 9325 or your doctor.



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EGHS would like to thank our consumers for reviewing this information.

