



HOTLINE

Monday to Friday : 8.00 a.m. - 4.30 p.m.

Haematology Day Stay - Direct Line - Phone 3072829.

Outside these hours and at weekends:

Help is always available at Ward 62

Phone: 3074949, Ext. 24620 or 24622

BONE MARROW BIOPSY

Haematology Department
Patient Information Leaflet
July 2008

BONE MARROW BIOPSY

The normal bone marrow produces white blood cells, red blood cells and platelets.

A biopsy of the marrow allows us to examine a small piece of the marrow under a microscope. This is performed to establish a diagnosis in certain blood disorders or to monitor the course of a disease.

Bone marrow biopsies are frequently done in Haematology Day Stay and do not require you to fast – i.e. you may eat your normal breakfast.

As sedation is given for this procedure you must not drive your car until the next day, so please arrange for someone to drive you home afterwards. The sedation does not render you unconscious, just makes you very sleepy. The drug used (Hypnovel), is quick acting and wears off in a few hours

The bone marrow is the soft inner portion of bone where the blood is produced. Local anaesthetic is injected around the back of the hip bone to numb the area. Two needle samples are removed for examination under the microscope. One sample, called an aspirate removes liquid bone marrow and the second sample called a trephine removes a small core of bone.

The entire procedure usually takes 15 – 30 minutes.

A pressure dressing is placed over the puncture site afterwards. You will need to lie on your back for a short time to help prevent any excessive bruising, and to allow the effects of the sedation to wear off. This is usually about 2 hours. The dressing maybe removed 24 hours later, and you may bath or shower then.

If you notice excessive bruising or bleeding (e.g. soaking the dressing) after you return home please contact us. (See phone numbers over the page).

Preliminary results from the aspirate may be available later in the day or the next morning, but more in depth results can take 1 – 2 weeks. Sometimes it is necessary for all these results to be available before a full diagnosis can be made. Your doctor will let you know when your results can be conveyed to you.

Any problems after you return home please telephone Haematology Day Stay – 307 2829 Mon – Fri 0800 - 1630

After hours or at the weekend phone Ward 62
307 4949 extension 24620 or 24622