



After Your Liver Biopsy

Discharge instructions

You have just had a needle biopsy of your liver. Your liver is an organ that has a large blood supply. This handout outlines the warning signs you need to know about in case problems occur after your liver biopsy.

If you had medicine to help you relax or to relieve pain during the biopsy:

- You must have a responsible adult to drive you home after your procedure.
- For the next 24 hours, do not:
 - Drive
 - Drink alcohol
 - Use machinery
 - Make legal decisions
 - Take care of another person

Activity

- You may resume most of your normal activities at home.
- For 48 hours, avoid strenuous activities, such as heavy exercise and lifting more than 10 pounds.
- You may walk and climb stairs, as long as you take your time and do not strain.
- Resume your usual diet.
- Keep taking your regular medicines unless they were changed by your doctor.

Questions?

Your questions are important. Call your doctor or health care provider if you have questions or concerns. Special Procedures staff are available to help 24 hours a day from Monday at 7 a.m. through Saturday at 12 noon.

Special Procedures Unit:
206-598-4670

After hours and on weekends and holidays, call 206-598-6190 and ask for the staff member checked below to be paged:

- Hepatology Fellow
- Radiologist
- Transplant Coordinator

When to Call Your Doctor or Transplant Coordinator

Please watch for these symptoms during the next few days. Call your doctor or transplant coordinator if you:

- Have pain in your abdomen or shoulder
- Have nausea or are vomiting
- Have chills or a fever higher than 99.5°F (37.5°C)
- Feel dizzy or lightheaded
- Are short of breath
- Have redness, swelling, or drainage at the biopsy site

The chance of bleeding after a liver biopsy is very small. But, it can happen up to 5 or 6 days after your biopsy.

Follow-up Visit

Before your biopsy, you should already have made an appointment for a follow-up visit with your doctor 2 to 4 weeks after your biopsy. This appointment was noted in your scheduling letter. Your doctor will talk with you about the results of your biopsy at this follow-up visit. We will not call you with your results.

UW Medicine

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