Transplant Renal Biopsy

How to Prepare for the Biopsy

Your doctor will review the medications you are taking. If you take blood thinning medications they will be stopped several days before the procedure. Blood thinning medications are aspirin, coumadin (warfarin), Persantine (dipyridamole), Plavix, Ticlid, Pletal, Agrylin, Lovenox, Fragmin, Innohep, Orgaran, Argatroban, Refludan, Iprivask, Angiomax, ximelagatran, Remodulin, Aggrastat, Integrimin, Reopro, Arixtra, and Trental.

When you arrive for the biopsy, go to the hospital laboratory on the third floor for pre-biopsy lab tests unless told to do otherwise by your patient care coordinator. Blood and urine will be collected. If you are told to go to 4-South, the testing will be done there.

Eating before a transplant kidney biopsy is okay as long as you do not need medications to help you relax during the procedure. Most times, the procedure is a quick one and the only medication you receive is an injection to numb the skin and tissues down to the kidney transplant. If you need medications to help you relax, do not eat or drink after midnight the night before the procedure and arrange to have someone drive you home. Again, transplant biopsies are not usually done with sedation. The procedure does not take that long and sedation increases the time you need to wait before you can go home.

The Transplant Biopsy Procedure

You will be taken from 4-South to ultrasound. The sonographer will perform an ultrasound on your transplant to check the blood flow and look for problems with urine flow. If there are no such problems, your abdomen will be cleaned with betadine or hibiclens. Tell your doctor if you are allergic to iodine.
Sterile paper drapes will be placed over the biopsy site. A numbing medicine will be injected into your skin over the transplant. Tell your doctor if you are allergic to lidocaine or novocaine. After you are numb, a cut is made in your skin and the needle is placed into the skin and advanced under ultrasound guidance to the kidney transplant. Once the needle is just outside the kidney transplant, a biopsy is taken. You will hear a loud snap as the biopsy is taken. Up to four passes with the needle may be needed to get enough tissue to make a diagnosis. Sometimes the tissue around a kidney transplant gets very hard. So, you may feel a lot of pushing, but you should not feel any sharp pain.

After the biopsy you will return to 4-South for about 2 hours. You will stay in bed the entire time and will be asked to void prior to leaving. If you need to void before that you may use a bedpan. If you cannot void lying down, a nurse will help you use the restroom. As long as there is no bleeding, your blood pressure is stable, and you are comfortable, you will be able to go home about 2 hours after the biopsy. You should call your doctor if you have any problems with passing very red urine or clots, or if you develop pain. If you notice red urine, drink plenty of fluids as this helps to pass the clots.

**Risks Greater than 1% Include:**

- Blood in the urine (10%).
- Loss of blood from the blood vessels causing the need for a blood transfusion (1%).
- The formation of a fistula (connection of an artery and a vein) inside the kidney that may lead to bleeding or an increase in blood pressure (fistula formation 15%, problems due to fistula — less than1%).
- A short-term decrease in blood pressure.
- A short-term increase in blood pressure.

**Risks Less than 1% Include:**

- Blockage of urine flow by a blood clot.
- The need to unblock the urine with a stent (plastic tube) placed in the ureter (connection between the kidney and bladder).
- Squeezing of the kidney due to a blood clot around the kidney causing a decrease in kidney function and an increase in blood pressure.
Questions?

Call 206-598-4670

Your questions are important. Call your doctor or health care provider if you have questions or concerns. UWMC Clinic staff are also available to help at any time.

Transplant Services
206-598-4670

4-South
206-598-4670
(where you stay before and after the biopsy)

Paging
206-598-6190
(to reach your doctor)

• The need to plug a hole in the kidney that is bleeding by using a catheter inserted into the groin up to the kidney and instilling a coil (plug).
• Loss of kidney function.
• Loss of the kidney.
• Infection in the skin, muscles, or kidney.
• Puncture of another abdominal organ.
• Injury of nerves on the tissues between the skin and the kidney causing pain or loss of sensation.
• Nausea, vomiting.
• Leaking of urine around the kidney.
• Death.

Getting Results

The preliminary results are available within 48 hours during the week and late on Monday if the biopsy is done on Friday. Complete results take at least 5 days due to the special testing performed. If special tests are needed to help with a diagnosis or if some findings need further evaluation, then it may take more time to receive the final results. Your nephrologist may call you with preliminary results, but often will ask that you come in to discuss the complete results and the care plan that you will need.

Parking in the Triangle Parking Garage

The Triangle Parking Garage is located on N.E. Pacific Place, across the street from UW Medical Center. From Montlake Blvd., turn left onto N.E. Pacific Street and right onto N.E. Pacific Place. There is direct access to the third floor (main entrance) via a pedestrian tunnel. The Triangle Garage has 500 parking stalls with 67 disability-parking stalls and 9 wheelchair-accessible parking stalls. Medical center parking staff is on duty Monday through Friday 6 a.m. to 12 a.m. and on Saturday from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Garage parking is free on Sundays. The Triangle Garage has a height restriction of 6 feet, 8 inches. Over-sized parking is available in the S-1 lot behind the hospital and in the Husky Stadium parking lot.