

After Your Liver Biopsy

Important instructions



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this handout.

What to Expect After Your Procedure

- Your procedure site may be sore or tender as the local anesthesia (numbing medicine) wears off.
- Mild pain should get better in 1 to 2 days.
- Your skin may be stained at the biopsy site. This is from the disinfectant. It will wash off.

Safety Instructions

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

- You must have a responsible adult drive you home after your procedure.
- For the next 24 hours:
 - Do **not** drive a car.
 - Do **not** drink alcohol.
 - Do **not** use machinery or power tools.
 - Do **not** make legal decisions.
 - Do **not** take care of another person.

Activity Guidelines

- Relax and do only light activities for the rest of the day.
- For 24 hours, avoid difficult activities, such as heavy exercise and lifting more than 10 pounds (about the weight of a gallon of water).
- You can walk and climb stairs, if you take your time and do not strain.
- You can eat your normal diet.

Medications

- Resume taking your blood thinning medications 24 hours after your procedure. This includes anticoagulants and antiplatelets.
- Keep taking your other regular medicines unless your doctor gives you different instructions.

Self-care

- Remove the dressing or bandages 24 hours after your procedure.
- You may shower the day after your procedure.
- For 48 hours, do not submerge (soak) in water. This includes baths, hot tubs, and swimming.

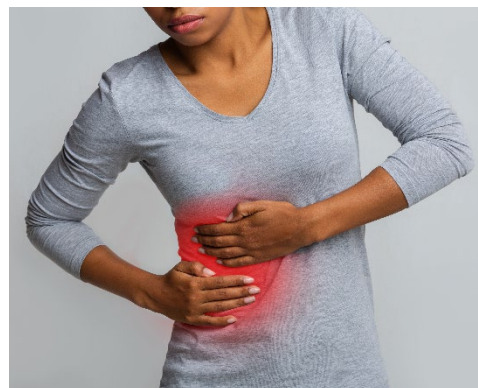
Who interprets the results and how do I get them?

The radiologist will send a detailed biopsy report to the provider who ordered this procedure for you. It may take a few days to a few weeks to get these results. Your provider will talk with you about your results.

When to Get Help

Call 911 and go to the nearest emergency room right away if you have any of these symptoms:

- Severe bleeding that will not stop, even after you press firmly on the procedure area
- Chest pain
- Trouble breathing
- Slurred speech (trouble speaking)
- Have chills or a fever higher than 99.5°F (37.5°C).
- Feel dizzy or lightheaded
- Sudden shortness of breath
- Increasing redness, tenderness, swelling, or drainage (fluid) at the biopsy site
- Pain in your liver or belly area (see picture on the right)
- Pain spreading to your right shoulder
- Pain that is getting worse whether you are active or resting



Your liver is on your right side, just under your ribs.

Who to Call

If you have questions or concerns, please call your care team:

UW Medical Center Montlake and Northwest Hospital:

Weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., call the Non-Vascular / Interventional Radiology Department:

- Montlake: 206.598.6209, option 2
- Northwest: 206.598.6209, option 3

Harborview Medical Center: Weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., call the Interventional Radiology Department at 206.744.2857

Questions?

Your questions are important. Call your doctor or healthcare provider if you have questions or concerns.

UWMC – Montlake:

206.598.6209, option 2

UWMC – Northwest:

206.598.6209, option 3

Harborview Medical Center:

206.744.2857

After hours and on weekends and holidays:

Call 206.598.6190 and ask to page the Interventional Radiology resident on call.