

# After Your Lung 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 24 to 48 hours.
- You may also cough up a small amount of blood. These symptoms will slowly get better 1 to 2 days after your procedure.

## 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 48 hours, avoid difficult activities, such as heavy exercise or 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.

## Self-Care

- **For 24 hours:** Drink extra fluids such as juices, water, or a sports drink.
- **For 2 days:** Do not take a bath, sit in a hot tub, or go swimming. Soaking in water increases the risk of infection. It is OK to shower.
- If you need to fly on an airplane within 24 hours after your lung biopsy, talk with your radiologist for special instructions.
- Do not strain for bowel movements (push hard to poop) for 24 hours after your lung biopsy.

## Medications

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

## 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

A collapsed lung can occur after a needle biopsy. **Call 911 and go to the nearest emergency room right away** if you have any of these symptoms:

- Shortness of breath that is new or getting worse
- New difficulty taking deep breaths after being active
- Rapid pulse (fast heartbeat)
- Sharp chest or shoulder pain with breathing
- Dizziness and or lightheadedness
- Coughing up more than ½ cup of blood in 24 hours

## 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.