

Bone biopsy

Information for patients



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SHEFFIELD TEACHING HOSPITALS NHS FOUNDATION TRUST



What is a bone biopsy?

These investigations involve the removal of a tiny core of bone. It is done using a special needle and syringe. They are diagnostic procedures used to assist clinicians in diagnosing metabolic bone diseases, as well as assessing the response to different treatments.

Is there anything I need to do before the bone marrow test?

If you are taking any medication that thins the blood, please make the clinician aware. If you have not been given any guidance please ring the helpline on **0114 226 6457** for advice. This line is an answer machine and someone will return your call within 24 to 48 hours.

How is the procedure done?

It is done by inserting the special needle into an area of bone, usually the iliac crest (hip bone). This is done under a local anaesthetic.

You will be asked to lie on your back and the skin in the area where the needle is to be inserted will be cleaned with antiseptic. Your doctor will then inject a local anaesthetic into the site. Once the area is numb (this usually takes a couple of minutes) the special needle is inserted. A small amount of the bone is removed through the needle into a syringe.

It shouldn't hurt but you will feel some considerable pressure and some discomfort.

Once completed, the needle is removed and pressure applied to the area. You will either have steristrips or stitches and a dressing put on.

Consent

We must seek your consent for any procedure or treatment beforehand. Staff will explain the risks, benefits and alternatives where relevant

before they ask for your consent. If you are unsure about any aspect of the procedure or treatment proposed, please do not hesitate to ask for more information.

What happens afterwards?

Following the procedure you may not be safe to drive. Please make arrangements to be collected.

The dressing may be removed after a couple of days.

When will I get the results?

The results from this test take several days to come back. Usually you will be told the results at your next outpatients clinic appointment.

Is there anything I should look out for when I go home?

Once the local anaesthetic has worn off, you may feel some soreness. Check with your GP before taking any painkillers.

You may also find that you bleed at the entry site. If this happens, apply a pad of gauze or cotton wool over the site and keep pressure on it by pressing firmly. If the bleeding does not stop please ring the hospital for advice.

Who should I contact if I have any concerns?

The Metabolic Bone Centre:

- **0114 226 6546**

Monday to Friday: 8.00am - 5.00pm

Outside of these opening hours, at weekends and bank holidays, contact NHS **111** for advice or go to your nearest walk-in centre.



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