

Bone Marrow Aspiration or Biopsy Without Anesthesia

Blood cells are produced mainly in the bone marrow. The marrow is the soft, spongy center of the bone. Bone marrow removal, known as aspiration, and biopsy tests show how well the bone marrow is working.

During a bone marrow aspiration, a sample of fluid with bone marrow cells is taken from the bone marrow. In a bone marrow biopsy, a sample of solid bone core is removed. The sample is usually taken from the hipbone.

Preparation



- No special preparation is required. You may eat your normal diet.
- You may take your medicines as usual. However, tell your care team if you take any blood thinners, including aspirin.
 - If you take this type of medicine, you will be told when to stop taking them before the procedure. These drugs can cause bleeding or bruising at the site.
 - It is important that you confirm with your care team whether you should stop taking your blood thinner before your procedure.



- **Complete your lab tests** which includes a CBC - complete blood count, BMP - basic metabolic panel, PT - prothrombin time and PTT - partial thromboplastin time **within 24 hours before your procedure**. Make sure these lab tests are part of your work-up schedule. Lab tests that are done on the same day may delay your procedure.
- Report allergies or sensitivity to tape or anesthesia.
- The care team will review any allergies and history of adverse reactions to medicines and confirm any medicines you are taking before your procedure.

Procedure

- Check your MyChart account for the time and location of your appointment.
- After you check-in, the care team will take you to the exam room and check your vital signs. The procedure team will talk with you about the procedure, answer your questions and have you sign the consent form for the procedure.
- You will lay on your stomach or your side during the procedure.
- The procedure site will be cleaned and numbed with a local anesthetic.
- A sample of bone marrow fluid will be aspirated from the bone with a needle. You may feel some discomfort during the aspiration. Tell the procedure team if you have severe pain during the procedure.
- If a biopsy is also ordered, a small bone core is taken from the same site.
- After the procedure, the care team will apply pressure on the site for several minutes to stop any bleeding and then place a dressing over the site.

- You may be in the procedure area for 30 to 60 minutes.
- Your doctor will discuss your results at your next appointment.

After the Procedure

Bleeding

It is normal to have a small amount of bleeding. However, if blood has soaked through the dressing, follow these instructions:

- If bleeding occurs while you are at MD Anderson, apply pressure to the dressing and return to the procedure location. The care team will check the site and apply another dressing.
- If bleeding occurs after you leave the hospital, call the doctor who ordered the procedure or go to the nearest hospital emergency center.

Bathing

- **Bone marrow aspiration only: Do not** take a tub bath or shower for 24 hours. Remove the dressing after 24 hours.
- **Bone marrow aspiration and biopsy: Do not** take a tub bath or shower for 48 hours. Remove the dressing after 48 hours.

Problems to Report

Call your home clinic if you have:

- Discomfort that does not get better with walking.
- Redness, swelling or drainage from the site after you remove the dressing.

Call your home clinic or go directly to the nearest hospital emergency center if you have:

- Fever greater than 100.4°F (38°C).
- Bleeding through the dressing.

If you have questions after business hours, weekends and holidays, call 713-792-2121 to speak to a nurse with askMDAnderson. In case of an emergency, call 911 or go to the nearest hospital emergency center right away.

Bone Marrow Aspiration Clinic

Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
713-563-3037