Percutaneous Needle Biopsy

This information will help you get ready for your percutaneous (pur-kyoo-tay-nee-uhs) needle biopsy procedure at Memorial Sloan Kettering (MSK).

About Your Percutaneous Needle Biopsy

During your percutaneous needle biopsy, your interventional radiologist will insert a needle through your skin to collect a sample of tissue. An interventional radiologist is a doctor who specializes in image-guided procedures. They may use computed tomography (CT), magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), ultrasound, or fluoroscopy (realtime x-rays) to find the area to biopsy. The sample is sent to the laboratory for testing and evaluation.

The procedure usually takes less than 1 hour. Your interventional radiologist will explain the procedure to you and give you time to ask any questions before you sign a consent form.

Before Your Procedure

Ask about your medications

You may need to stop taking some of your medications before your procedure. Talk with your healthcare provider about which medications are safe for you to stop taking. We have included some common examples below.

Blood thinners

If you take a blood thinner (medication that affects the way your blood clots), ask the healthcare provider performing your procedure what to do. Their contact information is listed at the end of this resource. Whether they recommend you stop taking the medication depends on the type of procedure you’re having and the reason you’re taking blood thinners.
Don’t stop taking your blood thinner medication without talking with your healthcare provider.

### Examples of Blood Thinners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medication</th>
<th>Brand Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Brand Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>apixaban</td>
<td>Eliquis®</td>
<td></td>
<td>ticagrelor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dalteparin</td>
<td>Fragmin®</td>
<td></td>
<td>Brilinta®</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>meloxicam</td>
<td>Mobic®</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>aspirin</td>
<td></td>
<td>dipyridamole (Persantine®)</td>
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<tr>
<td>nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) such as ibuprofen (Advil®, Motrin®) or naproxen (Aleve®)</td>
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<tr>
<td>celecoxib</td>
<td>Celebrex®</td>
<td>edoxaban (Savaysa®)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pentoxifylline</td>
<td>Trental®</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>warfarin</td>
<td>Jantoven®, Coumadin®</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>cilostazol</td>
<td>Pletal®</td>
<td>enoxaparin (Lovenox®)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>prasugrel</td>
<td>Effient®</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>clopidogrel</td>
<td>Plavix®</td>
<td>Fondaparinux (Arixtra®)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>rivaroxaban</td>
<td>Xarelto®</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dabigatran</td>
<td>Pradaxa®</td>
<td>heparin (shot under your skin)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sulfasalazine</td>
<td>Azulfidine®, Sulfazine®</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Read our resource *Common Medications Containing Aspirin, Other Nonsteroidal Anti-inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs), or Vitamin E* ([www.mskcc.org/pe/common_meds](http://www.mskcc.org/pe/common_meds)). It has important information about medications you’ll need to avoid before your procedure and what medications you can take instead.

### Medications for diabetes

If you take insulin or other medications for diabetes, ask the healthcare provider who prescribes your medication what you should do the morning of your procedure. You may need to change the dose before your procedure. Your healthcare providers will be checking your blood sugar level during your procedure.
Diuretics (water pills)
If you take any diuretics (medications that make you urinate more often), ask the healthcare provider performing your procedure what to do. You may need to stop taking them the day of your procedure. Diuretics are sometimes called water pills. Some examples are furosemide (Lasix®) and hydrochlorothiazide.

Remove devices from your skin
If you wear any of the following devices on your skin, the manufacturer recommends you remove it before your scan or procedure:

- Continuous glucose monitor (CGM)
- Insulin pump

Talk with your healthcare provider about scheduling your appointment closer to the date you need to change your device. Make sure you have an extra device with you to put on after your scan or procedure.

If you’re not sure how to manage your glucose while your device is off, talk with the healthcare provider who manages your diabetes care before your appointment.

Arrange for someone to take you home
You must have a responsible care partner take you home after your procedure. A responsible care partner is someone who can help you get home safely and report concerns to your healthcare providers, if needed. Make sure to plan this before the day of your procedure.

If you don’t have a responsible care partner to take you home, call one of the agencies below. They’ll send someone to go home with you. There’s usually a charge for this service, and you’ll need to provide transportation. It’s OK to use a taxi or car service, but you must still have a responsible care partner with you.

Agencies in New York
Partners in Care: 888-735-8913
Caring People: 877-227-4649

Agencies in New Jersey
Caring People: 877-227-4649
Tell us if you’re sick
If you get sick (such as have a fever, cold, sore throat, or the flu) before your procedure, call your doctor in Interventional Radiology. You can reach them Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. After 5:00 PM, during the weekend, and on holidays, call 212-639-2000 and ask for the Interventional Radiology fellow on call.

Note the time of your appointment
A staff member from Interventional Radiology will call you 2 business days (Monday through Friday) before your procedure. If your procedure is scheduled on a Monday, they’ll call you on the Thursday before. If you don’t get a call by 12:00 PM the business day before your procedure, call 646-677-7001.

The staff member will tell you what time to arrive at the hospital for your procedure. They’ll also remind you where to go.

Use this area to write down the date, time, and location of your procedure:

If you need to cancel your procedure for any reason, call the healthcare provider who scheduled it for you.

The Day Before Your Procedure
Instructions for eating before your procedure

Do not eat anything after midnight the night before your procedure. This includes hard candy and gum.
The Day of Your Procedure

Instructions for drinking before your procedure

You can drink a total of 12 ounces of water between midnight and 2 hours before your scheduled arrival time. Do not drink anything else.

Do not drink anything starting 2 hours before your scheduled arrival time. This includes water.

Things to remember

- Take your medications the morning of your procedure as instructed by your healthcare provider. Take them with a few sips of water.
- Don’t put on any cream or petroleum jelly (Vaseline®). You can use deodorant and light moisturizers.
- Don’t wear eye makeup.
- Remove any jewelry, including body piercings.
- Leave all valuables, such as credit cards and jewelry, at home.
- If you wear contact lenses, wear your glasses instead, if possible. If you don’t have glasses, bring a case for your contacts.

What to bring with you

☐ A list of the medications you take at home
☐ Medications for breathing problems (such as inhalers), medications for chest pain, or both
☐ A case for your glasses or contacts
☐ Your Health Care Proxy form, if you have completed one
☐ If you use a CPAP or BiPAP machine to sleep at night, please bring your machine with you, if possible. If you can’t bring your machine with you, we will give you one to use while you are in the hospital.
What to expect

Once you arrive at the hospital, doctors, nurses, and other staff members will ask you to state and spell your name and date of birth many times. This is for your safety. People with the same or similar names may be having procedures on the same day.

Your nurse will put in an intravenous (IV) line in your hand or arm. You’ll be brought into the procedure room. You’ll receive medication through your IV to make you feel drowsy.

Your skin around the biopsy area will be cleaned and covered with a drape. You’ll get an injection (shot) to numb the site.

Your interventional radiologist will insert the biopsy needle and check its position with MRI, CT, ultrasound, or fluoroscopy. When the needle is in the right place, your radiologist will take the biopsy. The sample will be checked to make sure there is enough tissue. If there is enough, your interventional radiologist will remove the needle. If there isn’t enough, they will take another sample.

When the procedure is finished, the site will be cleaned and covered with a bandage.

After Your Procedure

In the recovery room

You’ll be taken to the recovery room, where you’ll stay for up to 3 hours. Tell your nurse if you:

- Have increasing pain or discomfort
- Feel lightheaded or dizzy
- Have any shortness of breath or trouble breathing
- Have any symptoms that concern you
At home

- You may resume your normal diet right away.
- You may shower the day after your procedure. Remove the bandage before you shower. Replace it with an adhesive bandage (Band-Aid®) after your shower.
- Don’t take a tub bath or submerge the biopsy area in water for 24 hours after your procedure.
- You may resume your normal activities the day after the procedure.

When to Call Your Healthcare Provider

Call your healthcare provider if you have:

- Increased pain at the site of the biopsy
- Lightheadedness or dizziness
- Any other symptom(s) that concerns you

If you have any questions, contact a member of your healthcare team directly. If you're a patient at MSK and you need to reach a provider after 5:00 PM, during the weekend, or on a holiday, call 212-639-2000.

For more resources, visit www.mskcc.org/pe to search our virtual library.