

When to get help

Call your doctor if you have any of the following:

- Fever above 38.5°C (101°F), aches, and chills
- Increased pain or any redness at or around the biopsy site

Go to the nearest Emergency Department or call 9-1-1 if you have any of the following:

- Sudden shortness of breath
- Chest pain
- Severe weakness

HealthLinkBC

8-1-1

Call any time you have any questions or concerns. HealthLinkBC is open 24 hours.

Available in 130 languages. For an interpreter, say your language in English. Wait until an interpreter comes on the phone.

Locations

Abbotsford-Regional Hospital Medical Imaging 2 nd Floor, Fraser Wing 32900 Marshall Road, Abbotsford	604-851-4866
BC Cancer Agency Medical Imaging, 3 rd Floor 600 West 10 th Ave, Vancouver	604-877-6000
Chilliwack General Hospital Medical Imaging, Main Floor 45600 Menholm Rd, Chilliwack	604-795-4122
Jim Pattison Outpatient Care and Surgery Centre Medical Imaging, 2 nd Floor 9750 140 th Street, Surrey	604-533-3308 ext. 63926
Langley Memorial Hospital Medical Imaging, Main Floor 22051 Fraser Highway, Langley	604-533-6405
Lions Gate Hospital Medical Imaging, Lower Level 231 East 15 th Street, North Vancouver	604-984-5775
Peace Arch Hospital Medical Imaging, Main Floor 15521 Russell Ave, White Rock	604-531-5512
Richmond Hospital Medical Imaging, Main Floor 7000 Westminster Hwy, Richmond	604-278-9711
Ridge Meadows Hospital Medical Imaging, Main Floor 11666 Laity Street, Maple Ridge	604-463-1800
Royal Columbian Hospital Medical Imaging, Columbia Tower 330 E. Columbia Street, New Westminster	604-520-4640
St. Paul's Hospital Medical Imaging, 2 nd Floor, Providence Building 1081 Burrard Street, Vancouver	604-806-8006
Surrey Memorial Hospital Medical Imaging, 1 st Floor, Lower Level 13750 96 th Avenue, Surrey	604-588-3308
Vancouver General Hospital GI/GU Department, Jim Pattison Pavilion Station 5, Ground Floor, 855 West 12 th Avenue, Vancouver	604-875-4111 Ext 68612

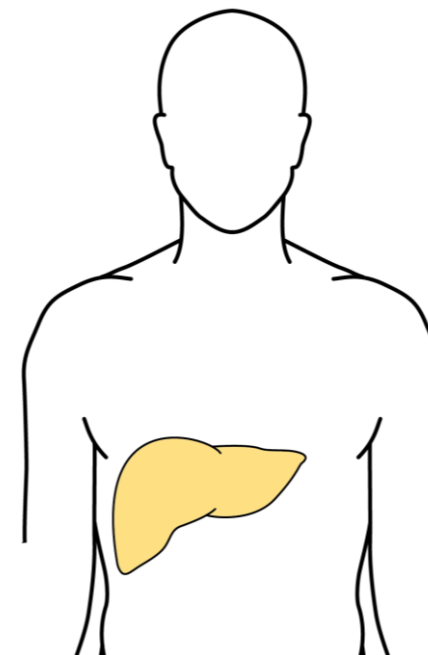
www.fraserhealth.ca – www.vch.ca

This information does not replace the advice given to you by your healthcare provider.

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Liver Biopsy



Follow-up Instructions/Appointment:

What is a Liver Biopsy?

A liver biopsy is a way of taking a small piece of tissue from your liver using a special needle. A liver biopsy is done to check for any abnormalities seen on other tests you might have had (such as an ultrasound, x-ray, CT scan, or blood tests). It is also done to find the cause of jaundice, or to check for cirrhosis, hepatitis or liver cancer.

Who does the Liver Biopsy?

It is done by a radiologist (a doctor who specializes in image guided procedures).

Can I bring a relative or friend?

Yes, they can stay with you before and after the procedure. However, for reasons of safety and regulations, they cannot be in the room during the procedure. We will tell you where family members can wait.

Will I have to stop my medications?

Your doctor will tell you what medications you must stop before your liver biopsy.

You must arrange for a 'responsible adult' to drive or accompany you home after this procedure.

What happens before the procedure?

Our Medical Imaging Department contacts you with specific instructions on how to prepare for this procedure.

How long will it take?

Plan to be at the hospital for at least 2 hours. It takes about 1 hour for the scan and biopsy and at least 1 hour afterwards to make sure you are well enough to leave.

What happens during the procedure?

The radiologist uses ultrasound or a CT scan to confirm the location of the biopsy, the safest approach, and take the tissue sample. The radiologist injects numbing medicine to 'freeze' your skin. You might feel some pressure when the biopsy needle is inserted. You will hear a clicking sound when the tissue sample is taken. We ask you to hold your breath and stay very still while the tissue samples are taken. Once done and the biopsy needle is removed, we put pressure over the area to stop any bleeding.

Does it hurt?

It might sting or burn as the numbing medicine is injected. You should not feel any pain as the needle goes in. However, you might feel some pressure and discomfort as the tissue sample is taken.

What happens afterwards?

We move you to the recovery area where you stay lying down for 1 hour. We monitor you for any problems. We check your blood pressure, heart rate, and biopsy site during this time.

Are there any risks or complications?

A liver biopsy is generally a safe procedure. Complications are rare.

Any time the skin is pierced or cut, there is a chance of infection. Other possible complications include:

- bleeding at the site
- collapsed lung (pneumothorax)
- internal bleeding
- injury to the intestines, gallbladder or kidney
- infection in the abdomen (peritonitis)

You can ask questions about the risks before you sign the consent form.

When will I get the results?

The radiologist can tell you if there is enough tissue for testing.

To find out the results of the test, make an appointment with the doctor who asked for this test.