

**PATIENT INFORMATION**

**Patient's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**You have an appointment in the St. Paul's Hospital Ultrasound Department on:**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please go to the Medical Short Stay Unit (8D). It is located on the 8<sup>th</sup> floor of the Providence building at St. Paul's Hospital.

Please arrive 15 minutes early. This gives you time to check in. Please bring with you photo identification and your CareCard (personal health number).

Please do not bring your children with you.

If you are not able to keep your appointment, please call **604-806-8161** as soon as possible. Please give us at least 24 hours notice so we can use your time for someone else. When you call, we will give you another date and time for your test.

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## **Things you need to know**

### **Why you need this test**

This test is a way of checking to see why your liver is swollen or why it is not working well.

### **How to prepare for the test**

Your doctor will order the blood work before coming to the hospital.

One week before your biopsy - Stop taking blood thinners. This includes Aspirin.

### **Before your test**

★ Please let us know if you are allergic to latex or freezing before this test. ★

When you arrive on the Medical Short Stay Unit (8D), the nurses do the following:

- ▶ Get you to change into a hospital gown.
- ▶ Ask you some questions about your health history and about your allergies.
- ▶ Get you ready to go to the Ultrasound Department.
- ▶ Help get you on a stretcher to travel to the Ultrasound Department.

In the Ultrasound Department:

- ▶ We explain the test to you and ask that you sign a consent form.
- ▶ You remain on the stretcher for the test.

### **What happens during the ultrasound test?**

We slide an ultrasound probe (special camera) over the skin & take pictures of your liver.

## **What happens during the biopsy?**

We remove a small piece of tissue from your liver.

To take a biopsy, the doctor:

- Cleans your skin on the right side of your body over your liver. The soap makes your skin turn pink, but it washes off.
- Injects local freezing into your skin so you do not have any pain during the biopsy.
- Guides the biopsy needle into the liver using an ultrasound probe. You will hear a loud click each time the doctor takes a biopsy. It is important that you stay still and follow our instructions.

We send the biopsy sample to the laboratory for testing. We may need to take more than one sample to make sure we have enough.

Once the doctor finishes, we put a bandage on your skin.

We ask you to lie on your right side for one hour after the biopsy.

We then take you back to the Medical Short Stay Unit on 8D.

## **What to expect after the test**

On the Medical Short Stay Unit, the nurses do the following:

- Check you and your blood pressure and heart rate.
- Let you know when you can go home.

At home:

You may have mild pain and a small bruise on the right side of your body below the rib cage.

There is very little risk that you will have an infection or any bleeding inside your body. If you have severe pain in the biopsy area or get a fever, please call your doctor or go to Emergency.

## **How to get the results of your test**

We send your ultrasound test results to your doctor as soon as possible. If your doctor does not have your results within two weeks, please ask your doctor to contact us.

The laboratory sends the results of your biopsy to your doctor separately.