



Information and Consent for Bone Marrow Biopsy

Your doctor considers that you require a bone marrow biopsy.

Basis

In a bone marrow biopsy, bone marrow is extracted from a bone and is then examined histologically (at the tissue level) and microscopically. The bone marrow sample is normally taken from the pelvic bone (usually from the iliac crest). The purpose of the microscopic examination is to analyse the type and extent of a disease precisely, so as to plan the most appropriate treatment regimen for the patient.

Implementation

First, the skin is disinfected (the germs on the skin are removed) and the intended extraction site (puncture site) is numbed locally with a local anaesthetic. Once the anaesthetic has had sufficient time to act, in order to examine the blood-forming cells, the doctor first uses a special needle to puncture the bone and then uses a syringe attached to a puncture needle to suck a small amount of blood from the bone marrow; this is known as bone marrow aspiration. While insertion of the puncture needle is generally painless, the aspiration of the bone marrow may result in brief and often considerable pain. For this reason, the administration of a sedative and/or pain medication is justified in some cases.

Then finally comes the bone or bone marrow biopsy to retrieve a tissue sample for histological examination. For this, the doctor uses a special cutter to remove a cylindrical piece of bone and bone marrow. Removal of the bone cylinder is generally painless. Only insertion of the cutter is sometimes perceived as unpleasant or painful.

Reasons for the test

This type of test is carried out when there is suspicion of disease of the blood-forming system. It is also used for ongoing monitoring of patients with haematological diseases who are already being treated.

Another reason is to assess affliction of the bone marrow by other diseases.

Risks

The biopsy is generally a low-risk procedure. Still, even when utmost care is taken, there may be complications in some cases. These may include bleeding, bruising or infections at the puncture site, which in most cases can be resolved with antibiotics, by simply pressing with pads on the puncture site, or with no treatment at all.

In very rare cases, skin, soft tissues and nerves may be injured, causing numbness, long-lasting pain or local inflammation.



There can also be impairment of respiratory function or even respiratory arrest with the administration of pain medication and/or sedatives, though this is very rare. There has also been description of hypersensitive reactions to the local anaesthetic.

Very rarely, there may be injury to organs in immediate proximity to the extraction site, such as the pleura, the lung, the heart and the intestines. Such injuries then require additional measures, including possibly an operation.

Prior to performing the diagnostic procedure, the doctor will discuss the need for and implementation of the planned intervention.

Procedure

No prior treatment is required for the biopsy. After the biopsy, the patient should simply take bed rest for the day.

If the procedure is an outpatient procedure, the patient must wait 24 hours after taking sedatives and/or pain medication before operating a motor vehicle. We recommend having someone pick you up. It must also be clarified whether there is someone at home to keep watch over the patient. In addition, no important decisions should be made and no work should be done on dangerous machinery for the same period of time.

Comments or questions?

The doctor specifically discussed the following points with me prior to the test

Important questions

Do you bleed for longer than average after an injury? yes no

Do you take blood thinners or pain medication? (Aspirin, Ponstan, Tiatral, Ticlid, Plavix, Marcoumar, Sintrom, etc.) yes no

Are you allergic to any medications? yes no
If so, which medications?

Do you have a pacemaker or a diseased heart valve? yes no

For women: Are you pregnant? yes no

Informed consent:

I was given a comprehensive explanation regarding the necessity for, the process and possible complications of the bone marrow biopsy by Dr

I was able to ask my questions and I agree to performance of the bone marrow biopsy.

Location and date

Patient's signature

Doctor's signature