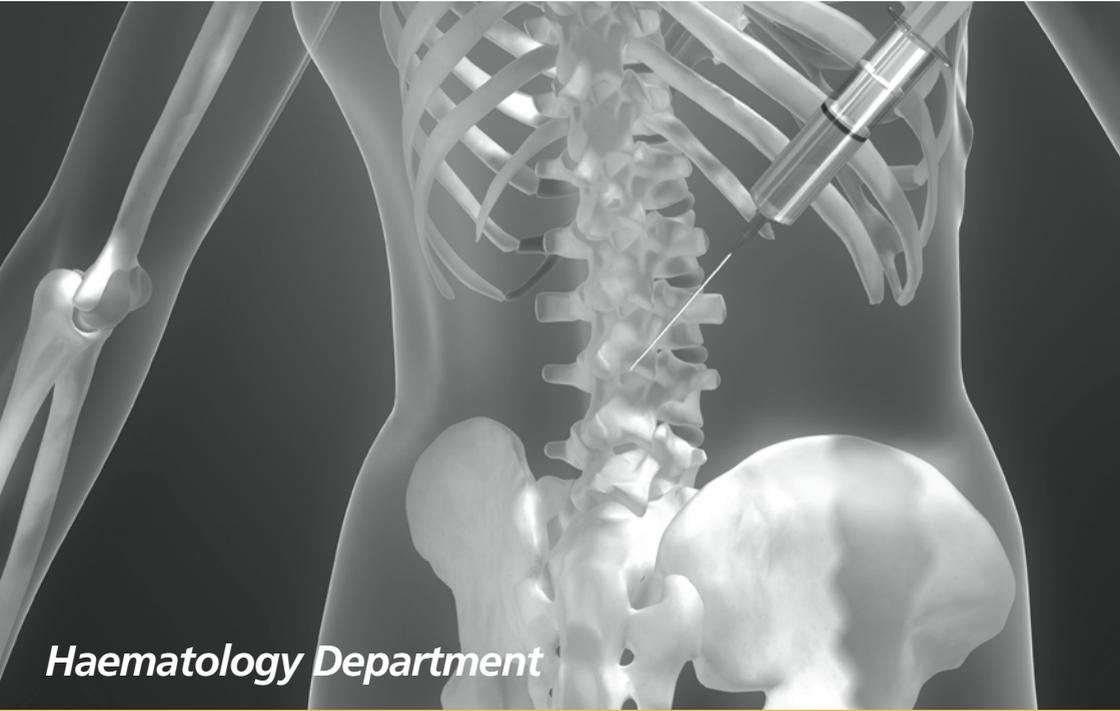


Bone marrow biopsy



Haematology Department

patientinformation

Bone marrow biopsy

Your bone marrow biopsy has been booked for:

Patient name: _____

Date: _____

Time: _____

Place: _____

What is a bone marrow biopsy?

Bone Marrow is found in the centre of large bones. This is where the blood cells (red blood cells, white blood cells and platelets) are formed.

A bone marrow aspirate is a procedure where a small amount of the liquid bone marrow is sucked (aspirated) from the bone using a syringe and special needle. A bone marrow trephine is a procedure where a small core of bone is taken.

The bone marrow aspirate and trephine samples are taken from a thick part of the pelvic bone at the back (iliac crest). The bone marrow aspirate may also be taken from the breast bone (sternum).

Will I need to stay in hospital?

No. The procedure can be performed as a 'Day Case'.

Why is a bone marrow biopsy performed?

A bone marrow biopsy is usually performed:

- As part of investigations to assess the extent of a disease, (a staging investigation)
- As part of assessing your response to certain treatments
- As part of trial investigations

What are the benefits of having a bone marrow biopsy?

A bone marrow biopsy helps your doctors diagnose, and assess the treatment of certain diseases.

It enables the doctors to:

- Look at the premature blood cells under the microscope
- Look at the relationship between these premature cells and the bone itself
- Send samples to other laboratories for specialised tests e.g. cytogenetics (looking for abnormalities in the genes)
- Other tests which would benefit individual patients

What are the risks of having a bone marrow biopsy?

General risks of the procedure

Antiseptic cleaning fluid, local anaesthetic and a small dressing are used in the procedure. The operator will wear gloves. If you are allergic to any substances, please inform the staff before the procedure.

Specific risks of having a bone marrow biopsy

Common risks

There is often some discomfort at the site of the biopsy. Please make sure that you have some painkillers (e.g. Paracetamol) to take when you get home.

Uncommon risks

Bleeding at the site of the biopsy occurs about 1 in 100 biopsies. The risk of bleeding is increased if you are taking certain medicine (e.g. aspirin Warfarin, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs), or if you have certain blood conditions. If the biopsy site starts to bleed, press firmly on the area with a clean dressing for 10 minutes. If the bleeding does not stop, ring the Haematology ward at Rotherham Hospital and make arrangements to come to the ward.

Very rare risks

The biopsy site could become infected. If the biopsy site becomes red, swollen, or more tender, ring the Haematology ward and arrange to be seen. The bone marrow biopsy needle is very sharp. If the needle accidentally penetrated tissue beyond the bone there could be serious consequences. This is a very unusual risk and would be managed immediately.

What preparation is necessary before the biopsy?

- Bone marrow biopsy is performed using Local Anaesthetic as a 'Day Case.' The whole procedure takes about 1 hour. Although the procedure should not prevent you from driving, it is advisable to have someone to take you home afterwards. Please ask for Hospital Transport at the time your bone marrow biopsy is arranged, if you require this service.
- There may be some discomfort at the site of the biopsy, and so it is advisable to have some painkillers (e.g. Paracetamol) at home. Please discuss this with the medical staff arranging your bone marrow, if you are unable to take Paracetamol
- Please inform the medical staff if you are allergic to any medicines or dressings. You will be asked what medicines you are taking. Please include any herbal or non-prescribed medicines. Make sure that the Medical staff knows if you are taking medicines that can affect blood clotting e.g. Warfarin, Aspirin, Clopidogrel, Heparin
- You may be asked to stop these medicines before the bone marrow biopsy to decrease the risk of bleeding from the biopsy site
- Please inform the medical staff if you are, or could be pregnant
- Please inform the medical staff if you have been in contact with an infectious disease

Bone marrow biopsy

- You will then be asked to sign a hospital consent form and a consent form for the Laboratory
- You do not need to starve for this procedure

What will happen when I have the bone marrow test?

- A bone marrow biopsy can be performed as a 'Day case' and takes about 1 hour
- Taking the bone marrow samples takes about 2 minutes. Local Anaesthetic is always used and Entonox (gas and air) is also available
- Before the procedure begins, you may be asked if you have any questions about the procedure, and if you have any allergies
- You will need to remove some clothing, and will be asked to lie on a couch
- The area that the bone marrow biopsy is to be taken from (pelvic bone or sternum,) will be cleaned with antiseptic solution
- Local Anaesthetic is inserted into the skin, the tissues beneath the skin and the outer layer of the bone. This may sting and then the area will go numb

Bone marrow biopsy

- When the anaesthetic has worked a special needle is used to remove the bone marrow. The needle is introduced through the bone using a special mechanical drill. Both the bone marrow aspirate and the bone marrow trephine are taken using the same needle. When the doctors are satisfied they have all the required samples, the needle is removed
- Firm pressure is applied to the biopsy site, to decrease the risk of bleeding. A dressing is applied
- If you have had the procedure performed as a 'day case' you will be asked to wait for about 30 minutes. The biopsy site dressing will be checked, and then you will be able to leave
- If the procedure is causing you unacceptable discomfort, you can ask for Entonox (gas and air.) This may make you feel lightheaded. The effects wear off quickly and it should not delay your departure from the department after the biopsy. You are advised not to drive yourself home

Bone marrow biopsy

What do I need to do after the biopsy?

You need to keep the dressing at the biopsy site dry for about 36 hours, and then you can remove it.

If you have any bleeding from the biopsy site, or the site becomes swollen or more painful, you need to contact the Haematology Ward (A7) on 01709 424231.

When will I get the results?

The bone marrow aspirate samples are processed in the Haematology laboratory and certain tests are ready within 24 hours. Some bone marrow aspirate samples are sent to other laboratories for other specific tests (e.g. cytogenetics) and these results take some weeks to be processed and reported.

The bone marrow trephine sample is processed for about 10 days before it can be looked at under the microscope.

A member of staff will be able to discuss the results of your Bone Marrow test either on the ward, if you are an inpatient, or at your outpatient appointment.

Bone marrow biopsy

How to contact us

Haematology Ward (A7)

Telephone 01709 424231

Clinical Nurse Specialist in Haematology

Telephone 01709 424231

Haematology Secretary

Telephone 01709 427112

Switchboard

Telephone 01709 820000

Useful contact numbers

NHS Direct

Telephone 0845 4647

Health Info

Telephone 01709 427190

Stop Smoking Service

Telephone 01709 422444

Patient Services

Telephone 01709 424461

A&E

Telephone 01709 424455

For GP out of hours, contact your surgery

Useful websites

www.nhs.uk

www.direct.gov.uk

www.therotherhamft.nhs.uk

We value your comments

If you have any comments or concerns about the care we have provided please let us know, or alternatively you can write to:

Patient Services

The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust

Rotherham Hospital

Moorgate Road

Oakwood

Rotherham

S60 2UD

Telephone 01709 424461

Email complaints@rothgen.nhs.uk



LS 429 08/12 V3 WFO



The Rotherham **NHS**
NHS Foundation Trust

Rotherham Hospital
Moorgate Road
Oakwood
Rotherham
S60 2UD

Telephone 01709 820000
www.therotherhamft.nhs.uk

