Thyroid Fine Needle Aspiration Biopsy

**What is a Thyroid Fine Needle Aspiration Biopsy?**

Your doctor may have suggested a thyroid fine needle aspiration biopsy (FNAB) to help diagnose a lump that was identified. The biopsy involves application of local anesthetic cream (and occasionally injection) to numb the area on your lower neck and then removal of a small amount of fluid through a very thin needle (roughly ½ millimeter in diameter). This will be done by a specialist physician (Interventional Radiologist) using an ultrasound machine to help see the nodule. He/she will pass the needle several times into the lump. You will not feel pain inside the neck, but you will feel the movement.

The biopsy takes approximately 1 hour and you will remain in the hospital for up to 1-2 hrs afterwards for monitoring.

The Interventional Radiology team will see you prior to the procedure for a consultation to further explain and give you an opportunity to have your questions answered.

**What should I expect after the procedure?**

You may have a sore neck after the procedure. You can take throat lozenges or acetaminophen (Tylenol) for the discomfort. You can eat normally after the biopsy.

You may have a bruise at the biopsy site. This usually fades within 7 days. You can shower or bathe the day after the biopsy.

**Follow these instructions after biopsy:**

- **Don’t do any tiring activities that day.** For example, avoid heavy lifting, straining or a lot of exercise
- **Don’t take Aspirin, Ibuprofen, Vitamin E or blood-thinners** for at least 3 days after your biopsy. Talk to your doctor if you are taking any of these medicines.

**When will I receive the results of my biopsy?**

Your Endocrinologist or Ear, Nose and Throat doctor will arrange a time with you to discuss the results of the biopsy. Generally results are available approximately 14 days after the biopsy.

**Call your family doctor or go to the nearest emergency department if:**

- You have trouble swallowing
- Swelling in your neck increases
- Pain gets worse
- You have difficulty breathing