

Risks and Side Effects.

Most people recover without any problems however there is a possibility of some risks which include:

- Pain or discomfort.
- Infection.
- Bleeding or bruising. If bleeding occurs, apply firm pressure to the biopsy area for at least 30 minutes using a clean handkerchief. If bleeding persists, contact the department or attend A&E outside of our working hours.

Contact Details

Oral and Maxillofacial Department County Hospital

Nurse's Base Tel: 01785 230577

Monday to Friday 9.00 am to 4.00 pm

Stoke Hospital

Nurse's Base Tel: 01782 674801

Medical Secretary Tel: switchboard 01782 715444

Patient Information Leaflet

Neck Lymph Node Biopsy



Please speak to a member of staff if you need this leaflet in large print, braille, audio or another language

Introduction

This leaflet will provide you with information about your neck lymph node biopsy procedure including the risks and benefits.

If after reading the leaflet you have any questions, please speak to a member of the team.

What is a lymph node biopsy?

This is a procedure in which a doctor removes a sample of a lymph node tissue (or in some cases, the whole node) from your neck to help diagnose a medical condition.

Preparing for the procedure.

- You can eat and drink as normal if the procedure is carried out under local anaesthetic.
- Wear comfortable clothing.
- Please do not wear any jewellery around your neck.
- You may be asked to stop taking certain medications (e.g. blood thinners).
- Make arrangements with someone to take you home after the procedure.

During the procedure.

- You will be asked to sign a consent form and will have the opportunity to ask any questions.

- The consultant will discuss the best anaesthetic option for you. Usually this is a local anaesthetic where you will be awake during the procedure.
- **If you require a general anaesthetic (where you will be asleep), for example if a larger sample or deeper lymph node is needed, you will be given a separate appointment, as this would not be carried out on the same day.**
- The biopsy area will be cleaned and the doctor will take the sample.
- You will have stitches after the procedure. You will need to make an appointment with your GP surgery to have these removed after one week. A small dressing may be placed over the biopsy area.

After the procedure.

- Rest for the remainder of the day and avoid any strenuous activities or lifting heavy objects for 48 hours.
- Be careful with neck movements and avoid turning your head too quickly.
- Mild discomfort or bruising at the biopsy site is normal. You can take paracetamol if needed for discomfort.
- Slight stiffness in your neck may last for 1-2 days, however this is normal and should improve over a few days.
- A follow up appointment will be arranged to discuss your biopsy results.