

Patient Information: Computed Tomography (CT) Guided Biopsy of Lung Nodule

What is a lung nodule and why do I need a biopsy?

A lung nodule is relatively round lesion, or area of abnormal tissue located within the lung. Often times it cannot be determined if the nodule is benign (non-cancerous) or cancerous just by imaging alone, therefore a needle biopsy may be necessary.

What is a Needle Biopsy of Lung (Chest) Nodules?

A needle biopsy involves a hollow needle removing some cells from a suspicious area within the lung tissue and examining them under a microscope to determine a diagnosis.

What is a computed tomography (CT) and why is it needed?

The CT scanner is typically a large, box like machine with a hole, or short tunnel, in the center. You will lie on a narrow examination table that slides into and out of this tunnel. This machine reveals the lung tissue and the abnormal tissue in question and allows the interventional radiologist to determine the safest way to biopsy the tissue.

Where will the procedure take place?

This procedure will be done at St. David's South Austin Medical Center.

How should I prepare?

You may be instructed not to eat or drink for eight hours before your biopsy. However, you may take your routine medications with sips of water. If you are diabetic and take insulin, you may need to ask your doctor if you need to adjust your dose. Your physician may advise you to stop a blood thinner three days before your procedure. You may want to have someone drive you home.

What are the risks?

There is a small chance of infection that may require antibiotics since the skin is broken in order to obtain the biopsy or sample, you may have some bleeding to the needle insertion site, also may have some temporary coughing up blood. Another possible risk is an air leak from the punctured lung into the chest cavity that causes the lung to collapse. If a collapsed lung should occur and is large enough to be considered harmful, a small tube may be inserted into the chest cavity to drain away the air, a hospital stay may be needed.

Who interprets the results and how do I get them?

A pathologist examines the removed specimen and makes a final diagnosis so that treatment planning can begin. Your pulmonologist will call you with the results.

What can I expect after the procedure?

You may experience some soreness at the biopsy site as the local anesthesia fades, but this should improve. If you do cough up a small amount of blood (less than 1 teaspoon) this should resolve within 12-48 hour

What should I call the doctor for?

You should call for shortness of breath, difficulty in catching your breath, rapid pulse (heart rate), sharp chest or shoulder pain with breathing, and/or blueness of the skin, or coughing up over 1-2 teaspoons of blood.

Important Numbers:

Austin Pulmonary Consultants office: (512) 441-9799

24-hour Emergency (Med Link): (512) 323-5465

St. David's South Austin Medical Center scheduling: (512) 816-7340

My CT guided biopsy is scheduled for:

Date:

Time: