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This leaflet is available in large print. Arrangements can also be made on request for it to be explained in your preferred language. Please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) email: pals@rjah.nhs.uk

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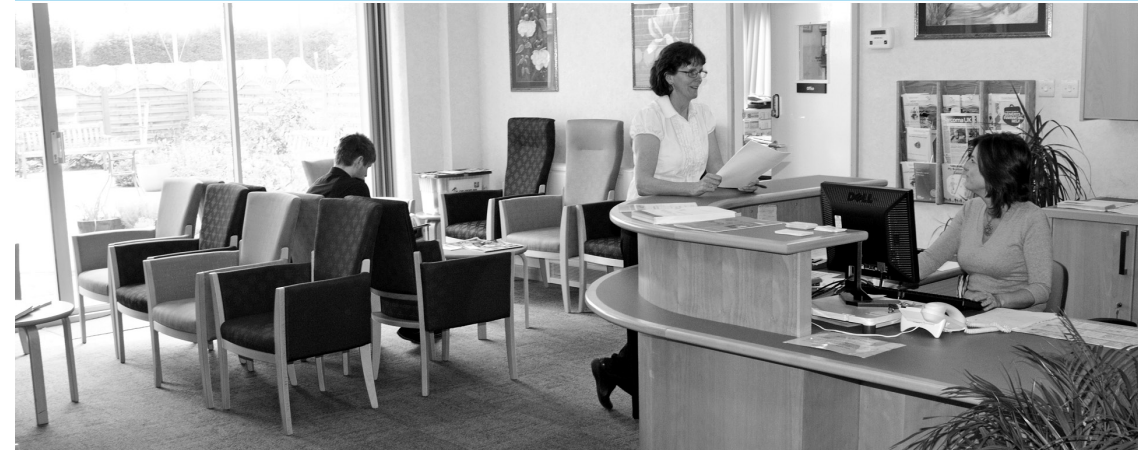
Hospital Stop Smoking Service

For advice and information on quitting smoking, or for an informal chat, please contact the Hospital Stop Smoking Sister on:
01691 404114

Further Information

Please contact the tumour unit with any questions or if you are concerned on **01691 404107**.
If there is no one to take your call please leave your name and number on the answer machine.

Information for patients Bone Biopsy



Musculoskeletal Tumour Service

The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt
Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Foundation Trust,
Oswestry, Shropshire SY10 7AG
Tel: 01691 404000
www.rjah.nhs.uk

Why

On the investigations you had so far, the doctors have identified an abnormality in your bone. The doctors are not entirely certain what this is and are planning to take some tissue so that it can be analysed by the pathology doctor. This procedure is called a bone biopsy.

How

The bone biopsy is usually done under a short general anaesthetic, when you will be asleep. However, on occasions it is possible to do the procedure under a local anaesthetic. During the biopsy procedure, the doctors remove a small piece of tissue with a special bone biopsy needle. It is important that the needle is in the area of abnormality identified on the investigations you had so far. Therefore, the procedure will be done under the guidance of either x-rays or a CT-scan. The x-ray biopsies are done in the operating theatre by one of the surgeons and the CT biopsies are done in the CT scanning suite by one of the radiologists. Usually, only a small stab incision is required to place the needle. Occasionally, if no tissue can be obtained, we make a small incision to take the biopsy. Once the tissue sample has been taken, it will be sent to the pathology doctor for tests.

Results

Once the pathology department has received the sample they will do several tests on it. It will take some time for all these tests to be completed and further tests may be required to make a diagnosis. It is unusual for a bone biopsy result to be available before 7 days and sometimes this can take a few days longer. We fully appreciate that you are anxious to know the result and we will do everything we can to give you the result as soon as possible. However, it is important for the pathology department to do all the tests necessary, so the pathology doctors can make an accurate and correct diagnosis.

Once the pathologist has reviewed the biopsy, we will discuss your case at our Multi-Disciplinary Team meeting (MDT). At this meeting, that is held every Thursday morning, we will discuss all the investigations you have had so far between the radiology, pathology, oncology doctors and surgeons. Normally, we will review you in the outpatient clinic after the MDT discussion has taken place. However, in some cases we may review you before the MDT meeting has taken place.

Complications

Unfortunately, complications do sometimes occur; although they are uncommon. It is not possible to list them all but some complications include:

- **Non Diagnostic Biopsy:** Unfortunately, it has not been possible to make a diagnosis from the sample that has been taken. Rather than reviewing you in clinic, we may contact you to arrange a repeat biopsy. Sometimes, we suggest an open biopsy that will be taken via a small incision.
- **Fracture:** During the biopsy procedure a small hole is made in the bone. This can make the already weak bone prone to fracture. A fracture can occur, just before, during or after the biopsy procedure. If this happens, please contact the tumour office for further advice.
- **Pain and Bruising:** Are not uncommon following a biopsy and usually not serious. However, if the pain is getting worse rather than better, please contact the tumour unit for advice.

Further Information

Please contact the tumour unit with any questions or if you are concerned on **01691 404107**.