

- Breathing problems
- Chest pain
- Coughing up blood (other than small streaks of blood for the first few days after the procedure)

You can resume driving after 48hrs and you should take approximately 2 days off work.

**For further information visit:**  
[www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk](http://www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk)  
[www.lhch.nhs.uk](http://www.lhch.nhs.uk)

**Or contact:**  
The British Heart Foundation Heart Information Line on 0845 070 8070.

If you require a copy of this leaflet in any other format or language please contact us quoting the leaflet code and the language or format you require.

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Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital NHS Foundation Trust  
Thomas Drive, Liverpool, Merseyside L14 3PE Telephone: 0151-600 1616  
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# CT Guided Lung Biopsy



A procedure performed to obtain a sample of lung tissue

**This leaflet has been written to provide information about a procedure to obtain a sample of lung tissue (CT guided lung biopsy). We hope it answers some of the questions or concerns you may have. It is not intended to replace talking with medical or nursing staff.**

### ***What is a lung biopsy?***

A lung biopsy is a procedure performed in order to obtain a sample of lung tissue. The tissue is then examined in a laboratory.

### ***How is a CT guided lung biopsy done?***



A CT scan (computerised Tomography or CAT scan) is a specialised type of X-ray. A CT scan is used during the procedure to produce highly detailed and accurate images of your lungs. These images enable a doctor who specialised in X-rays (Radiologist) to guide a needle into your lungs to collect a small tissue sample (biopsy).

You will be asked to lie on the scanning bed. The bed is then passed through the scanner (some people say it is like a big polo mint) whilst the images are taken. The scanning bed may be moved into different positions in order to obtain the best image of your lung.

Your skin will then be numbed using a local anaesthetic. Once the area is numb a biopsy needle is passed into your chest and a sample of lung tissue is obtained.

### ***Will I feel any pain or discomfort during procedure?***

You may experience a small amount of discomfort during the procedure. If you are in any pain you should inform the staff.

### ***How long does the procedure take?***

The procedure is usually done as a day case and takes between 30-60 minutes. Following the procedure however you will need to remain in the hospital for 4-6 hours.

### ***How do I prepare for the procedure?***

If you are taking certain blood thinning medication (anti coagulants) you will be given instructions on when to stop taking this medication before your procedure. You must follow this information carefully.

It is important to tell the nurse on the ward if you have any allergies, before the procedure.

### ***What are the benefits of having the procedure?***

The procedure may help to diagnose certain conditions and help determine appropriate treatment options.

### ***What are the risks involved?***

Any risks involved in the procedure will be discussed in more detail before you sign a consent form.

It is common for a small amount of air to escape around the lung causing it to partially collapse (pneumothorax). Usually this is only minor and no treatment is required.

If however a larger amount of air escapes it may be necessary to have a tube inserted into your chest to reinflate the lung. This could mean you would be required to stay in hospital for a day or two.

There is a small risk of bleeding (haemorrhage) occurring as the needle is passed through the lung. Usually this is minor and no treatment is required. If bleeding persists it may be necessary to have a tube inserted to drain the blood. This could mean staying in hospital for a day or two.

### ***What alternatives do I have?***

An Open Lung biopsy is another way of obtaining lung tissue. This however involves undergoing a general anaesthetic and a surgical procedure.

Your doctor will be happy to discuss any alternative tests or procedures if they are applicable to you.

### ***What can I expect after the procedure?***

Following the procedure you will be taken back to the ward. You will need to rest on your bed for an hour or two. A nurse will monitor you blood pressure, heart rate, and oxygen levels. You will have an X-ray 1-2 hours after the procedure. You will be informed when you are able to eat and drink. Most people are able to go home after 4-6 hours.

It is normal to cough up streaks of blood for a couple of days after the procedure. If you cough up large amounts of blood, develop chest pains or having difficulty breathing you should seek medical advice immediately by attending your local Accident and Emergency department.

### ***When do I get the results?***

You will be seen as an outpatient and informed of the results when they become available. This is usually within 2 weeks of the procedure. Please contact your consultant's secretary with enquiries about clinic appointments.

### ***When can I resume normal activities?***

It would be advisable to be escorted home and have someone stay with you overnight. You should limit exercise for at least 2 days and you should not lift anything heavy. Try not to cough and do not smoke.

You should seek medical advice if there are any signs of the following;

- Bleeding or swelling from the area where the needle was inserted