



DOUGLASS  
HANLY MOIR  
PATHOLOGY

BARRATT & SMITH  
PATHOLOGY  
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# Bone Marrow Biopsy

Information for patients



## **Douglass Hanly Moir Pathology (DHM) and Barratt & Smith Pathology (BSP) perform bone marrow biopsies to assist doctors with your diagnosis.**

### **What is a bone marrow biopsy?**

A needle is inserted into the bone to withdraw a small piece of tissue and some bloodlike material for microscopic examinations.

### **Why is a bone marrow biopsy performed?**

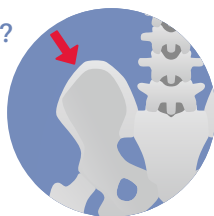
Bone marrow makes red blood cells, white blood cells and platelets. The biopsy allows examination of the bone marrow cells in the various stages of development, for accurate diagnosis and planning of treatment and to evaluate the effectiveness of treatment.

### **Who will perform the procedure?**

The bone marrow biopsy will be performed by a medical specialist skilled in this procedure. The doctor will discuss the biopsy with you and obtain your written consent prior to the procedure.

### **Where are the samples taken from?**

Bone marrow samples are taken from the back of the pelvic bone. To minimise discomfort, the procedure is performed with local anaesthetic.



### **How long will the biopsy take?**

The entire procedure takes approximately 30 minutes.

### **When will the results be available?**

Your doctor will receive most of the results in five days. Some special tests may take two weeks.

### **What if I have more questions?**

Before the procedure, the doctor performing the test will go through the process and ask you to sign a consent form. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

# Preparation & Instructions

## 1 Patient preparation

The biopsy is performed by a medical specialist at a small number of specialised collection rooms. Therefore, it is essential to make a booking for this procedure.

Please notify the DHM/BSP staff of the following details at time of booking:

- ▶ Names of medications you are taking, including over-the-counter drugs
- ▶ Allergies
- ▶ Bleeding problems

Please wear comfortable loose clothing that allows access to your hip area.

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## 2 Aftercare instructions

After the procedure, you will need to lie on your back on the recovery bed and rest for a short time, to help prevent bleeding.

A sterile dressing will cover the biopsy site and you should avoid getting the site wet for 48 hours.

You may experience a dull ache at the site for a few days; paracetamol can be taken to reduce this discomfort.

### Potential complications of this procedure

Complications are very uncommon.

Potential problems include:

- ▶ Bleeding or bruising
- ▶ Infection



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