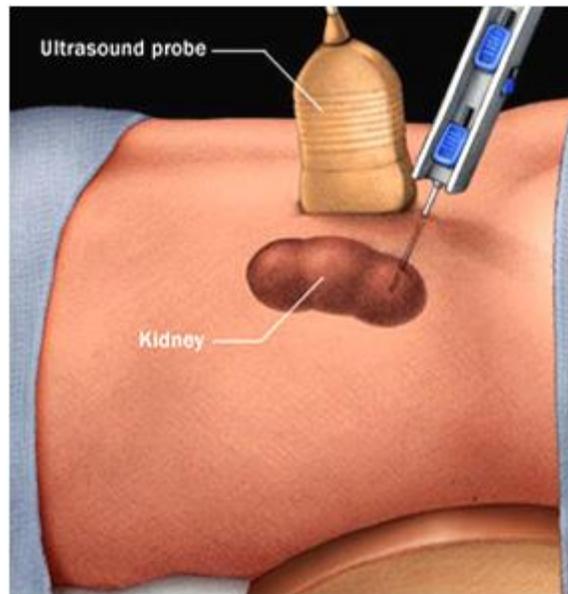


Transplanted Kidney Biopsy

What is a kidney biopsy?

A kidney biopsy is a sampling of kidney tissue to send for tests. A special biopsy needle is used to go through the skin and into the kidney. Ultrasound is used to verify the location of the kidney to help the physician guide the needle safely into it.



How does the ultrasound work?

Ultrasound sends sound waves into the body using a transducer, a hand-held device that sends and receives sound waves. For the exam, the sonographer will apply warm gel to your abdomen and place the transducer against your skin to take pictures. When the sound waves reflect back to the transducer from inside the body, an image is created on the screen. Ultrasound does NOT use radiation.

How should I prepare for a kidney biopsy?

- You should contact the transplant office before the procedure for instructions and they will answer any questions you may
- It is okay to take your blood pressure medications with a sip of water
- Wear loose-fitting clothing that is easy to take off and comfortable to wear in a bed

How long will it take?

- Your doctor will decide how long you need to recover in the hospital after the biopsy. This may be up to 8 hours total for procedure prep, the biopsy, and recovery
- It takes 90 minutes for the ultrasound and procedure

Why would my doctor order this?

- Kidney disease
- Elevated creatinine on blood test or kidney failure
- Blood in the urine
- Protein in the urine
- Other

What will happen during the exam?

Before the procedure, you will have an ultrasound exam of your kidney. You will lie on the bed and will need to remove your clothing covering the area that needs to be scanned. The sonographer will apply warm gel onto your abdomen and then he/she will place the transducer on your skin. By moving the position of the camera they will obtain the images needed for the exam.

What will happen during the procedure?

You will lie on the bed on your back. The transplant doctor will numb the area where the biopsy needle will go. The radiologist (ultrasound doctor) will use the ultrasound to help guide the biopsy needle into your kidney. You may hear the popping sound of the needle as it samples the tissue. The needle is removed and the sample collected. This is often done 3 times to get enough samples for the tests. After the biopsy, you will need to lie flat in the hospital with some pressure on your kidney for a few hours to recover before you can go home.

How do I get the results of the exam?

The results of the biopsy will go to the doctor who ordered the exam. Most of these results are available within 3-5 business days; however, some may take longer.