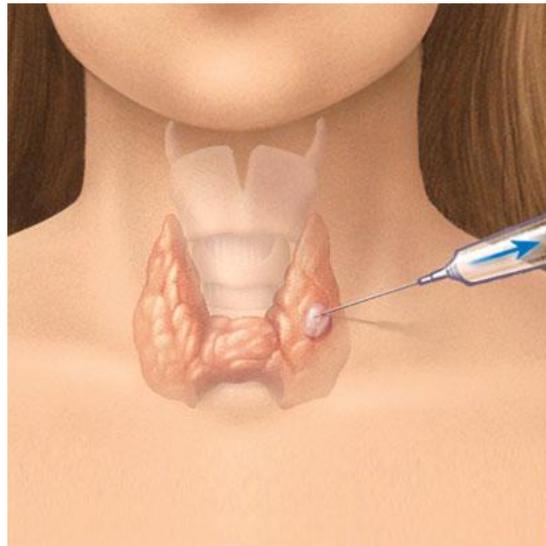


Thyroid Biopsy (Fine Needle Aspiration)

What is a thyroid biopsy?

A thyroid biopsy/FNA is a sampling of a thyroid nodule to send for tests. Very small needles are used to go through the skin and into the thyroid. Ultrasound is used to verify the location of the thyroid to help the radiologist guide the needles safely into the nodule.



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 neck 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 the biopsy?

- You can eat prior to this procedure
- Do not take any blood thinners 5 days prior to the procedure (ie: aspirin, Coumadin, heparin, etc) If you are unsure of a medication, please call the ultrasound department.
- Wear loose-fitting clothing that is easy to take off and comfortable to wear in a bed

How long will it take?

- 90 minutes

Why would my doctor order this?

- Nodules in your thyroid
- Palpable lump in your neck
- Prior biopsy of your thyroid did not have enough cells to diagnose the nodule

What will happen during the exam?

Before the procedure, you will have an ultrasound exam of your thyroid. You will be given a gown and need to get undressed from the waist up. You will lie on your back for the ultrasound and the procedure. The sonographer (technologist) will apply warm gel onto your neck and then he/she will place the transducer on your skin. By moving the position of the transducer they will obtain the images needed for the exam.

What will happen during the procedure?

You will lie on the bed on your back. Then the radiologist (ultrasound doctor) will numb the area where the needles will go. The numbing solution can sting when it goes into your skin. He/she will use the ultrasound to guide the biopsy needle into your thyroid. The needle is moved back and forth inside your thyroid to get a good sample. This is often done up to 6 times to get enough samples for the test. After the biopsy, you will be given an ice pack if necessary and you will need to take it easy for the rest of the day.

How do I get the results of the exam?

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