

## **Information on having an Ultrasound guided Biopsy, Injection, or Aspiration, as an outpatient.**

**This information sheet is to let you know what to expect regarding your ultrasound guided procedure.**

The procedure usually lasts between 15 and 30 minutes.

### **Do I need to prepare for my scan?**

It depends, and your appointment letter should explain this clearly. If you are not sure please contact us at the number below.

For most scans no preparation is required.

### **Where will I have my scan done?**

Your appointment will be at Derriford Hospital, unless otherwise stated. Please refer to your appointment details. If you are arriving at Derriford by car you should note that parking charges apply and it can take a while to find a space and then walk to the hospital. You should probably allow at least 20 minutes for this and booking in at reception.

The Derriford ultrasound department is on level 6 (the same as the main entrance). From the entrance go up the concourse and turn right by the Body Shop. Please report to the X-Ray West reception desk.

Because we operate an appointments system, we cannot guarantee to still scan you on the day if you miss your appointment.

### **Who will do my scan?**

Your examination will be done by one of our senior staff. Usually these are specialist doctors (radiologists) but we also have highly trained non-medical professionals (advanced practice sonographers) who are skilled in this work. We sometimes have trainee radiologists in the department who are working under supervision.

### **What happens?**

You may be asked to undress and put on an examination gown and dressing gown. (Dressing gowns are provided but if you prefer you may bring your own.)

For scans of the arms, neck or legs it may be sufficient to roll up or remove outer layers of clothing.

Ultrasound is used to guide a needle into the correct position for taking a tissue sample or giving treatment by either draining fluid or injecting a drug to reduce pain or inflammation. In all respects this is similar to ordinary ultrasound to start with, but this will be followed by an injection which will hurt a bit. The person doing the procedure will explain what they are going to do and ask for your permission before proceeding. Please feel free at any point to ask questions or raise any concerns you have.

In many, but not all, cases a local anaesthetic will be used to deaden the area of the injection, and the skin area will be wiped clean and may be covered by sterile drapes. For some of these procedures you will be required to stay for a while after the scan for

observations until it is clear you have not developed any complications. As each procedure is slightly different we can only give general information on what to expect, but the doctor or sonographer will be happy to answer any questions you have.

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

Ultrasound itself is thought to present no real risk of harm. Inserting a needle into your body, depending on where it is used will have an element of increased risk of bleeding or damage to adjacent structures. Using ultrasound to guide the procedure reduces these risks but does not eliminate them. There is also the risk that a biopsy may not get enough of the abnormal tissue to make an accurate diagnosis.

Because of these risks you may be asked to sign a consent form, but this will depend on the level of risk and for simpler procedures a verbal agreement from you is all that will be required. Before agreeing you can ask for as much information as you need in order to decide, and even after having given consent you can still change your mind.

### **How do I get my results?**

Normally the results will be sent to the doctor who sent you for the scan. If this is a treatment procedure there may be no results as such but your doctor will get a report on what took place. If a tissue sample is taken it will have to be sent to a laboratory for analysis and this may take some time. The person performing the procedure will tell you how and when the results will be made available to you.

### **Records of the procedure.**

Any images recorded during your scan, and other necessary personal details, are kept as part of our records. These are stored electronically in a database and are used to help with your diagnosis and treatment. They are kept for a while because they may provide useful information in any future illness. Access to your information will be limited to clinical staff needing it in your interest except that images may be used for teaching doctors and allied professional groups within the hospital.

### **Who should I contact if I need more Information?**

If you have any further queries about your scan appointment please contact the ultrasound appointments clerk at Derriford. The number is **(01752) 439287**

***Please also call this number if you have any special needs that we can help with when you attend for your scan.***

### **Further information on the Internet**

- A list of Frequently Asked Questions relating to ultrasound is available at...  
<http://www.plymouthhospitals.nhs.uk/ourservices/clinicaldepartments/Documents/Frequently%20Asked%20Questions.pdf>
- Alternatively there is an excellent description of having a scan in a “virtual hospital” prepared by the Royal College of Radiologists  
at...<http://www.goingfora.com/radiology/ultrasound.html>

**For a large text version of this leaflet please  
contact (01752) 439287**

### **How useful did you find this information?**

We would like you feedback on this information leaflet. Please send your comments to ...  
The Imaging Support Manager  
X Ray West, Derriford Hospital, Plymouth PL6 8DH