



LIVER BIOPSY DISCHARGE EDUCATION

Information:

A liver biopsy is performed by inserting a special needle into the liver to remove a small tissue sample. This sample is sent to the lab to be examined for signs of damage or disease. This procedure is commonly ordered after other tests have shown that the liver is not working properly, when liver disease is suspected, or to rule out cancer.

What should I expect after the Liver Biopsy?

- You may feel some pain around the biopsy site or in your right shoulder. This shoulder pain is called referred pain.
- You may return to work after 24 hours unless your primary doctor instructs you otherwise.
- You do not have any diet restrictions because of this procedure but should continue any that were given to you by any other doctors.
- Continue Coumadin/warfarin and all previously prescribed medications **with the exception of Pradaxa, Xarelto, Eliquis or Savaysa which can be resumed after 24 hours.**

Bathing & Wound Care:

- You may shower after 24 hours; do not tub bath or submerge in water for 3 days (bath tub, hot tub, swimming pool, river or any other body of water).
- Dressing to stay on 2-3 days (clean and dry)
- If the biopsy site become red, tender, swollen, or starts to drain, contact us.
- Avoid heavy lifting and strenuous activity for 3 days.

Follow-up visit information:

Your ordering physician will typically get your biopsy results in three to five business days. If you do not hear from the ordering physician in 7 business days, please call their office to set up an appointment to review the results. Follow up with Interventional Radiology is not usually necessary.

Occasionally, a situation will require prompt attention and an emergency room visit is necessary:

- Sudden chest pain, shortness of breath, or fainting
- Blood in the stool or black, tarry stools
- Sudden swelling in the belly
- Drop in blood pressure, and/or light-headed feeling
- Increasing redness, swelling or drainage from the biopsy site
- Severe pain at biopsy site, chest or belly not relieved by medication
- Bleeding or drainage from the needle site that is saturating the dressing
- You have shaking, chills and/or a temperature over 100.3°F



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- New, sudden difficulty breathing

With these urgent situations, please call Medford Radiology to see what your best course of action is.

If you received Conscious Sedation (IV sedation) and are discharged the same-day:

- You must have someone drive you home when you leave the hospital.
- For 24 hours after your procedure, do not do anything where you need to be mentally alert. This includes making important decisions, driving, operating machinery, signing important papers, etc.
- Eat light for the first 24 hours, and then start eating more as you are able. Drink plenty of fluids.
- If you are taking pain medications:
 - Take as directed
 - Do not drink alcohol while taking narcotic pain medication
 - Do not drive
 - If you are constipated, drink more fluids and eat more fiber. You can also use an over-the-counter stool softener.

For any questions please contact Oregon Interventional Radiology at 541-618-5801

In all emergency situations call 911