



Physician: _____ Phone Number: _____
 Patient Name: _____
 Date of Procedure: _____ Time to Arrive: _____
 Location: _____

Pre-Procedure Instructions for Liver Biopsy

Welcome to the MGH GI Endoscopy Unit. We would like to make your stay as pleasant and safe as possible. Please read these instructions carefully before your Liver Biopsy.

Please plan to spend about 4-5 hours in our unit for your procedure. We will do everything possible to avoid a delay in your procedure, but emergencies may interrupt the schedule. Please check the location of your procedure; we now have two sites (Blake 4 and Charles River Plaza).

What you need to do BEFORE you start to prepare for your procedure:

1. Call 866-211-6588 to update your registration (if not done within 6 months).
2. Be sure you have made arrangements for someone to escort you home after the procedure. You will be receiving sedation and you cannot drive for 12 hours after the procedure. Your escort must meet you in the endoscopy unit when you are ready to go home. If you don't have an escort on the day of your procedure, your procedure will be CANCELLED and rescheduled.
3. Be sure you have an insurance referral, if required by your insurance company.

Preparation for Liver Biopsy

ONE day before your procedure:

1. Do not eat or drink anything after midnight the day before your procedure.

The day of your procedure:

1. Bring a list of your medications, MGH identification card (blue card), and the name and phone number of your escort.
2. You will be at bed rest in the recovery room after the biopsy and will need to remain in the endoscopy unit for 4 hours. You may wish to bring something to read or music with headphones. Breakfast or lunch will be provided for you.
3. If you have procedure related questions, call the Endoscopy Patient Registration line at 617-726-0388. Please leave a message and a Registered Nurse will return your call. Answers to frequently asked questions (FAQ) will be at our web site at: www.massgeneral.org/gastroenterology/gastro_pt_info.htm

Special Medication Instructions

- If you are diabetic and take insulin, take only ½ of your usual dose in the morning of your procedure.
- If you take Coumadin, stop taking Coumadin 5 days prior to your procedure. Please contact the physician who referred you for the procedure for specific instructions. The Endoscopy Unit staff will instruct you on when to resume the Coumadin after your procedure.
- Do not take aspirin, Plavix or nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (Motrin, Advil, ibuprofen, Aleve, etc) for 2 weeks prior to the procedure.

Liver Biopsy Information

Introduction: Your doctor has scheduled you for a liver biopsy. Please read this form so that you understand the procedure and the risks associated with it. Please ask questions about anything on this form you do not understand.

Procedure: During a liver biopsy, a needle will be passed through your skin between two ribs on the right side of your lower chest, into your liver to obtain a piece of liver tissue about one to two inches long and 1/16th of an inch in diameter. Before the biopsy, you will receive a local anesthetic, such as Xylocaine, at the biopsy site to reduce the pain from the procedure. The biopsy procedure will take approximately 20 minutes, and you will remain in the hospital for several hours afterward to be monitored for complications.

Risks: Liver biopsy is usually a very safe procedure when done by a specially trained physician. However, there are some risks associated with the procedure. The risks associated with the procedure range from minor to significant medical problems. Minor problems may include pain at the biopsy site or in the right shoulder. This occurs in approximately 20% of patients.

Significant complications occur rarely. Severe bleeding from the liver can occur, and this could require blood transfusions or even surgery to stop the bleeding. Another rare complication is puncture of an organ adjacent to the liver. If the gall bladder is punctured, a leak of bile could occur which could be very painful. If the lung is punctured, the lung could collapse, and if the intestine is punctured, infection could occur. Surgery might be needed to correct these situations. In less than 1 in 1000 reported cases, death can result after a liver biopsy.

Alternatives: A radiology or surgical procedure could be done to obtain liver tissue.



MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL HOSPITAL

PATIENT IDENTIFICATION AREA

PROCEDURE CONSENT FORM

PATIENT:

UNIT NO:

PROCEDURE: LIVER BIOPSY

I have explained to the patient/family/guardian the nature of the patient's condition, the nature of the procedure, and the benefits to be reasonably expected compared with alternative approaches. I have discussed the likelihood of major risks or complications of this procedure including (if applicable) but not limited to drug reactions, hemorrhage, infection, complications from blood or blood components. I have also indicated that with any procedure there is always the possibility of an unexpected complication.

I have given the patient written teaching materials to help inform him/her.

Conscious sedation is being used for this procedure and I have explained that risks include suppressed breathing, low blood pressure and occasionally incomplete pain relief.

The following additional issues were discussed.

All questions were answered and the patient/family/guardian consents to the procedure.

(Physician/Licensed Practitioner Signature)

Date: _____

_____ has explained the above to me and I consent to the procedure. I understand that Massachusetts General Hospital is an academic medical center and that residents, fellows and students in medical and allied disciplines may participate in this procedure. In addition, I understand that tissue, blood or other specimens removed for necessary diagnostic or therapeutic reasons may subsequently be used by the Hospital or members of its Professional Staff for research or educational purposes.

(patient's/health care agent's/guardian's/family's signature*)

*(if patient's signature cannot be obtained, indicate reason in comments section above.)