

PATIENT INFORMATION

What is FNA Biopsy?

Fine-needle aspiration (FNA) is a method of taking a small amount of tissue from a lump on the body in order to find the cause. A small needle is inserted into the lump and tissue is dislodged by gentle suction and movement of the needle. The tissue is smeared on slides, stained, and examined by a pathologist. The pathologist will make a diagnosis and send a report to your doctor.

Is FNA painful?

No procedure using needles is completely painless. However, the needles used in FNA are usually smaller than those used to draw blood.

How accurate is FNA?

Most doctors consider FNA to be a very good test. Overall, it is about 95% accurate when the aspiration and interpretation are done by an experienced cytopathologist. However, the test is not perfect. There is a small chance, usually less than 10% depending on the size, location, and nature of a lump, that FNA will not be interpreted as cancer when cancer is there. Very rarely, usually less than 1% of cases, FNA may be falsely interpreted as cancer when cancer is not there. It is very important that you return for follow up with your doctor after the FNA. He/she will use the results of the FNA and other clinical information to determine if further tests or treatment are necessary. If your doctor and you decide to observe the lump and not remove it, it is very important that you keep all follow up appointments with him/her and notify him/her if the lump grows or start feeling different.

What are the risks of FNA?

FNA may cause bruising and slight tenderness at the aspiration site. These are

usually not serious. Discomfort should be relieved by an over the counter pain reliever such as Tylenol or the application of an ice pack for short periods following your return home. Very rarely, an infection may occur after an FNA. If you experience swelling that doesn't go away, a fever over 100°F, or if you experience pain that is not helped by Tylenol or other non-aspirin products, call your doctor's office immediately. Also very rarely, continued bleeding may occur at the puncture site. If you have continued bleeding or notice a large area of bruising greater than three inches, call your doctor's office immediately. Extremely rarely, air may be introduced into the pleural (lung) cavity causing a pneumothorax and shortness of breath after a chest wall, upper back, or breast FNA. However, the benefits of FNA far outweigh the risks.

Can FNA spread cancer?

Hundreds of thousands of FNAs have been done worldwide. The risk of spreading cancer by FNA is so low that, practically speaking, the answer is no.

What are the alternatives to FNA?

The only alternative to FNA comparable in accuracy is a biopsy done with a much larger needle or by an operation. Surgery is more difficult and has more complications. FNA is simpler, cheaper, and has fewer complications.

How long will the procedure take?

Each sample will only take about 10 seconds to obtain. The whole procedure from start to finish takes no more than 30 minutes. Please arrive 20 minutes early for registration.

When will I get my results?

Generally, your results should be available from your health care provider's office in 2-3 working days. Results are grouped into 3 categories:

- Clearly benign (no cancer)
- Clearly malignant (cancerous)
- Non-definitive (unable to make a diagnosis based on tissue submitted)

For your appointment bring:

- Insurance card/information
- Identification
- Copayment

NOTE: You will be charged a \$50.00 fee if you miss your appointment.

Directions to the Clinic:

From Albuquerque:

1. Start out from I25 going west on Paseo del Norte.
2. Turn north onto Coors Blvd.
3. Turn left onto Irving Blvd.
4. Turn left onto Greene Ave.
5. The FNA Clinic will be on the right.

From Rio Rancho:

1. Start out going south on Golf Course Rd.
2. Turn left on Greene Ave.
3. The FNA Clinic will be on the left.

Your Appointment:

Date: _____

Time: _____

Petroglyph FNA Clinic
4619 Greene Ave NW
Suite A
Albuquerque, NM 87114
505.924.0209
www.petroglyphpath.com



PROCEDURE SCHEDULING

- 1. Fill out completely.**
- 2. Fax "Procedure Scheduling" form, patient demographic sheet, previous imaging studies, and recent physician note to 505.924.0210.**
- 3. Immediately call 505.924.0209 to schedule appointment.**
- 4. Provide patient with "Patient Information" form.**

Date: _____

Requesting Physician: _____

Contact Number: _____

Patient Name: _____

DOB: _____

Male: _____ Female: _____

Procedure Site: _____

Clinical Information: _____

Clinical Diagnosis: _____ ICD-9 Code(s): _____

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