

Bone Marrow Biopsy

Bone marrow is the soft tissue inside your bones where blood cells are made. During a bone marrow biopsy, a small tissue sample is taken and sent for tests. The biopsy is often taken from your hipbone in your lower back.

A bone marrow biopsy is done to:

- Check for blood diseases
- Check for blood or bone cancer
- See how a treatment is working
- Check for infection

Arrive on time for your test. The test takes about 30 minutes. Plan to be here about 1 to 2 hours.

To Prepare

- Before the test, the staff may ask you about:
 - Your medicines including prescription and over the counter medicines, herbals, vitamins and other supplements
 - Allergies such as to medicines, foods or latex
 - Other health conditions and past surgeries
- If you are pregnant, or think you may be pregnant, tell the staff before the test.

During the Test

- You will wear a hospital gown.
- You may be given a sedative or pain medicine.
- You lie on your side or on your stomach.
- The doctor injects the site with numbing medicine. This may sting.
- When the site is numb, the doctor puts a needle through the skin into the bone. You will feel some pressure and may feel some pain. This often lasts only a few seconds.
- The doctor will remove a small tissue sample and the needle is taken out. A bandage is put on the site.

After the Test

- You will need to lie on your back for 15 to 20 minutes.
- The nurse will check the bandage for any signs of bleeding.
- You may have some bruising or mild discomfort.
- You can remove the bandage the day after your biopsy.
- Test results are sent to your doctor. Your doctor will share the results with you.

Call your doctor right away if you have:

- Pain going down your leg
- Bleeding where the biopsy was taken
- A fever over 100.4 degrees F or 38 degrees C

Talk to your doctor or nurse if you have any questions or concerns