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.
Bone Marrow Biopsy.

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.

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