

Renal Services

Renal biopsy

What is a renal biopsy?

- A renal biopsy is a procedure where a small sample of kidney tissue is taken and examined under a microscope.
- A renal biopsy is performed in the X-ray department by a doctor or a radiologist.

What preparation is required?

If you are taking any drugs that thin the blood i.e. Warfarin, Aspirin, Clopidogrel you will need to inform your doctor before admission as these will need to be stopped.

- You **will be** required to **starve for four hours prior** to this procedure.
- You will be required to have a blood test prior to the procedure to make sure your blood clots properly.
- You will be asked to sign a consent form when the doctor will explain the reasons why you need to have this test. He will also explain the risks associated with it.
- You will need to undress and wear a gown.

What will happen?

A porter will come and collect you in time for your biopsy. You will be wheeled down to the X-ray department on your bed.

During the procedure

- You will be asked to lie on your front and your kidneys will be identified by an ultrasound scan. This is done by putting a small amount of gel onto your skin and the doctor or radiologist moves a probe over your kidney area.
- Your skin will be cleaned with an antiseptic and local anaesthetic will be injected into the skin. This may sting a little.
- When the area is numb the doctor or radiologist will ask you to hold your breath while the biopsy is being taken. This is because the kidney moves while you are breathing and so this helps prevent any damage to the kidney.

After the biopsy

- A plaster will be put over the biopsy site. A porter will come and collect you to take you back to the ward.
- You will have to stay in bed after the procedure for six hours.
- A nurse will record your blood pressure and pulse regularly. She will also inspect your biopsy site and check that you have passed urine.



Patient Information

- If you need any painkillers these will be given.
- You will be able to eat and drink as usual.

Risks of a renal biopsy

- The risk of a serious complication is small. Bleeding is the most serious complication.
- In about 1 in 10 biopsies there is visible blood in the urine that settles by itself.
- In less than 1 in 50 biopsies there is more bleeding that requires a blood transfusion.
- In less than 1 in 1500 biopsies the bleeding may continue and require urgent x-ray tests or an operation to stop the bleeding.
- In less than 1 in 3000 biopsies the kidney may have to be removed to stop the bleeding.
- Although deaths have occurred following complications of biopsies this is extremely rare.

Discharge

- You will usually be discharged the day after your biopsy.
- You should avoid any strenuous activities for two weeks after the biopsy.
- If you are a patient in the Ambulatory Care Unit (opposite Ward 50) after 6 hours of bed rest and 2 hours (around the bed) of mobilising out of bed, you may be allowed home upon a Renal Consultant review.

Complications

If you experience severe pain or pass blood in your urine please telephone the Renal Ward for advice: Tel 024 7696 8258

Results

You will usually be given the results of your kidney biopsy at your follow up outpatient appointment.

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format please contact 024 7696 8258 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy

Document History

Author	Alison Kavanagh/Nikki Dignan
Department	Renal Services
Contact Tel	024 7696 8258
Published	February 2007
Reviewed	March 2019
Review	March 2022
Version	6
Reference	HIC/LFT/372/07