



Directions to FNAB Clinic:

Enter the BC Cancer Agency from the main entrance on West 10th Avenue. Take the elevators to the 3rd floor. Turn left when exiting the elevators. Turn left again and go to Laboratory Reception. Notify receptionist that you are scheduled for a fine needle aspiration biopsy.

Appointment:

Date: _____

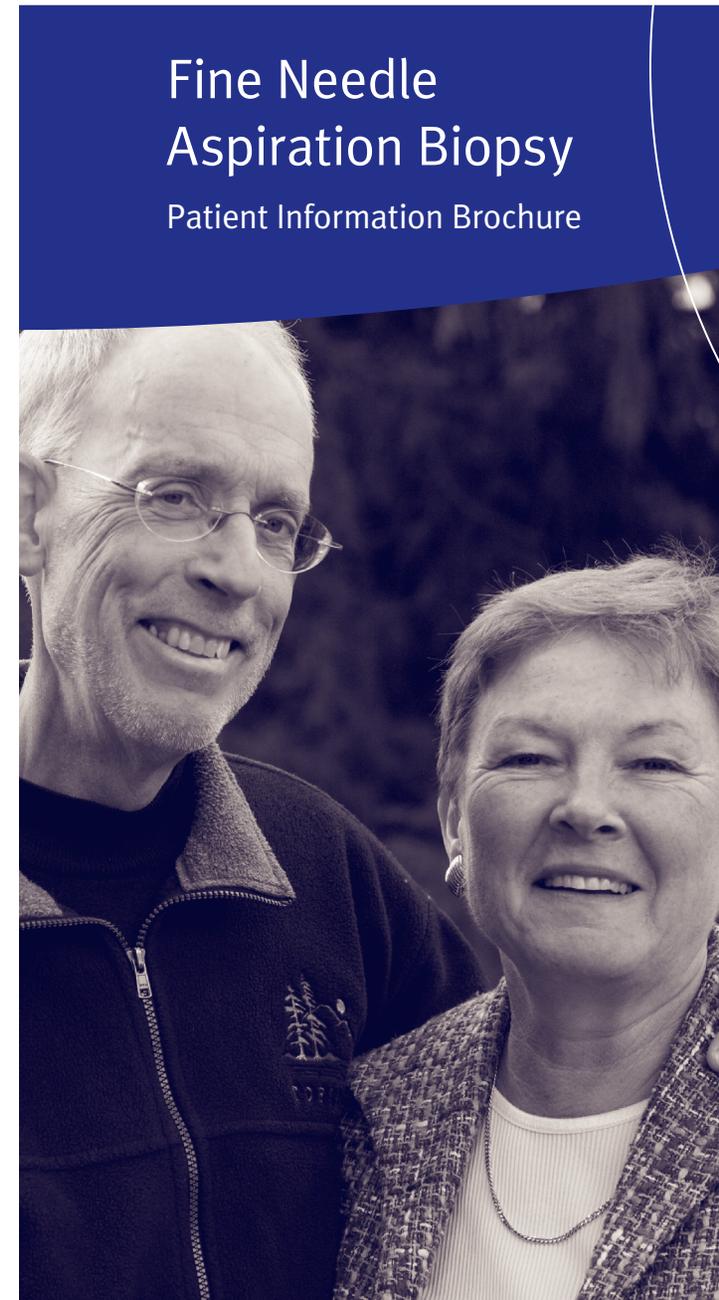
Time: _____

Fine Needle Aspiration Biopsy Clinic

BC Cancer Agency
FNAB Procedure Room, Third Floor
Laboratory Reception
600 West 10th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5Z-4E6

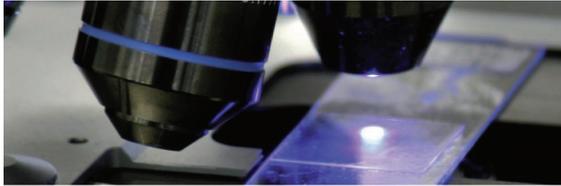
Appointments 604.877.6000 Local 2101

Monday - Friday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm



Fine Needle Aspiration Biopsy Patient Information Brochure

Frequently asked questions about Fine Needle Aspiration Biopsy (FNAB)



What is a Fine Needle Aspirate Biopsy?

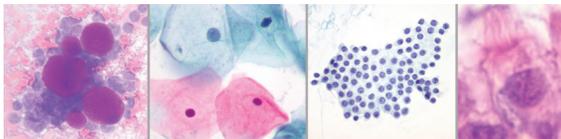
Fine Needle Aspiration Biopsy is a safe, quick and reliable way of diagnosing lumps that have been felt by you or your doctor. FNAB is a procedure performed by a medical doctor (pathologist) using a very thin needle, which is smaller than those used to draw blood. The needle is inserted into the lump and material is extracted. The material is expelled onto a glass slide, and into a special solution for additional tests. The needle remains in the lump for about 10 seconds during each needle stick. The lump is usually aspirated three times to obtain both a representative and an adequate sample.

What is the purpose of a Fine Needle Aspirate Biopsy?

FNAB is used to obtain cells from a lump, bump or mass.

These cells are analyzed to help determine cancerous and non-cancerous conditions.

With this information your doctor may be able to advise you if further tests are needed or if treatment is advised.



What is the FNAB procedure like?

It should not hurt much more than an injection or blood test.

Anaesthetic is generally not necessary but is occasionally used.

The pathologist will examine the lump and ask you various questions such as:

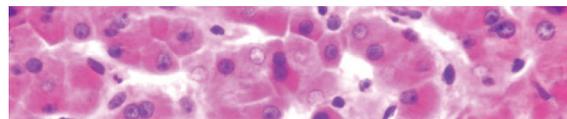
- When was it first noticed?
- Has it changed? Is it growing?
- Is it painful?
- Have you had cancer in the past?
- Have you had any other tests done?
- Are you taking any medication?

How long does the procedure take?

Plan to arrive at the BC Cancer Agency at least 10 minutes before your scheduled appointment to sign in.

A session usually lasts about 20 minutes.

Occasionally, additional time is required. Please allow some extra time if you are expected to return to work after the procedure.



Are there any restrictions before the FNAB procedure?

There are no specific restrictions. You may eat or drink as usual.

Please advise the laboratory if you are taking blood thinners.

Are there any restrictions after the FNAB procedure?

You may resume normal activities after the procedure.

Are there any complications with the FNAB procedure?

No procedure is without complications, but complications are rare.

A small bruise, swelling or tenderness may occur at the biopsy site.

No special attention is needed apart from keeping the site clean and watching for bleeding, infection or unusual symptoms. If these arise, call your doctor.

Are the results reliable?

The results of FNAB are highly reliable, but depend on a good sampling of the right part of the lump.

While no medical procedure is 100% accurate, this simple test provides diagnostic information in most cases. Some lumps do not shed cells or the lump may be difficult to find and sample with a needle. If a satisfactory sample is not obtained, further investigations may be needed.

When will the result be available?

Results are usually available within 24 to 48 hours after the procedure. You should obtain your results from your referring physician.

