

Having a biopsy

(in the X-ray Department)

You have been given an appointment to have a biopsy. **It is important that you follow the instruction below.** If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the X-ray Department at **020 7188 5573** (for Guy's Hospital) or **020 7188 5477** (for St Thomas' Hospital). You should be given a leaflet with more information about the type of biopsy you are having. If you do not have a copy, please contact us for one.

Key information

Before your biopsy

- Make sure you have had a blood test before the biopsy.
- Tell us if you are taking any **antiplatelet medicines** (for example, aspirin, clopidogrel) or any **medicines that thin the blood** (for example, warfarin), as these may need to be withheld temporarily before the procedure. Call the X-ray Department for advice as soon as you get your appointment letter – contact details are at the top of this leaflet.
- **Stop eating** six hours before the procedure.
- **Stop drinking** four hours before the procedure.
- Arrive 30 minutes before your appointment time to allow sufficient time for preparation.

After your biopsy

- You will need to stay in hospital for up to four hours after the procedure for us to observe you.
- If you had the biopsy as a day case, you may be able to go home on the same day.
- You will need a responsible adult to take you home by car or taxi. We do not recommend using public transport as it is unsafe if you feel unwell. If you need hospital transport, please call 020 7188 2888.
- Have somebody stay with you overnight.
- Do not drive for 48 hours after the procedure.
- Do not do strenuous exercise for 48 hours after the procedure.

Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust

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Switchboard: 020 7188 7188 www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk

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