



CT Scanning Blackrock Clinic

CT Guided Lymph Node Biopsy

Expect to be with us for approximately 4-6 hours.

What is a Computed Tomography (CT) Guided Biopsy?

- A CT scan produces a series of images of an area of your body using X-rays (radiation).
- These images are then used to guide the Consultant Radiologist to take a sample of cells from an exact area in your body. The cells are then sent to the laboratory to be sampled.
- Images will be taken before, during and after the biopsy.

Preparation before your procedure

- Please fast for 4-6 hours.
- If you take Plavix /Clopidigrel, please withhold for 5 days.
- If you take Xarelto/Eliquis, please withhold for 1 day.
- If you take Clexane, please withhold 1 dose.
- If you take any other anticoagulants not listed please contact the Out Patients Department on 1800 300 200 and ask for CT Bookings.
- If you are on Warfarin, your INR should be below 1.5.
- Please bring all insurance details. These are required on the day of your procedure on arrival and you will be requested to fill in the appropriate insurance forms.
- Depending on your policy type, there may be a shortfall or excess to pay on the day.
- Any relevant scans from other hospitals/clinics should be brought for the procedure.
- Please wear loose comfortable clothing.

- Please have an escort arranged to take you home after your procedure. You will not be allowed to drive.
- If there is a possibility that you may be pregnant please contact the Out Patients Department on 1800 300 200 prior to your appointment.
- If you are asthmatic please bring your inhaler with you.

Arriving for your procedure

- Please report to the Angio Day Unit upon arrival.
- You will be registered here and asked to fill in some paperwork.

Before your procedure

- The staff in the angio day unit will show you to a cubicle where you will have some pre procedure checks done and you will be asked to change into a gown.
- You will have a drip line inserted into a vein in your arm. This will be used to administer medication during the procedure if required.
- You will also have bloods taken.
- You may also be asked to remove your jewellery.
- The Consultant Radiologist will explain the procedure and consent you, outlining any risks involved before the procedure begins. This may take place in the Angio Day Unit or in the CT scan room. You will have an opportunity to ask any questions at this point.



What will my Procedure involve?

- The procedure will take place in the CT Scan room and you will be greeted by many different members of staff (Radiographers, Radiology nurse, CT Assistant and the Radiologist).
- For the procedure you will be instructed to lie on the scan table.
- You will have a BP cuff placed on your arm to monitor your blood pressure throughout the procedure and a small probe attached to your finger to monitor your oxygen levels.
- You may also be given some light sedation before the procedure begins.
- A sticky grid will be placed over the area to be biopsied and some planning scans taken. All this involves is you lying still as the table passes in and out of the scanner. You may be asked to follow some breathing instructions.
- Once the planning scans are done the Consultant Radiologist will review the images and decide on the exact location to be biopsied.
- An accurate mark will be made on your skin with a marker demonstrating the site to be biopsied.
- Your skin will then be cleaned with an antiseptic solution. This may feel cold on your skin.
- Some local anaesthetic will be injected first to numb the area. This may cause a bee sting like feeling.
- Once the area is numb the Consultant Radiologist will begin the biopsy procedure.
- This does involve a needle entering the body to take the sample of cells.
- This is usually repeated a few times and you may feel some pressure as the samples are taken.
- Once the biopsy is taken a final scan is performed and a sterile dressing applied to the biopsy site.

After the scan

- You will be assisted off the CT scan table by one of the CT team and brought back to your cubicle in the Angio Day Unit where you will be monitored for a few hours.
- During this time you will be given something to eat and drink.
- Results can take up to 5 working days and will be with your Consultant for your next appointment.
- The evening of your biopsy you must take things easy.
- Expect some pain at the site of the biopsy and take pain relief if required.
- If any complications arise once you are home please contact your GP or A&E Department. Alternatively you can contact the Out Patients Department within working hours (9am-6pm) on 1800 300 200 and you will be directed to an appropriate member of staff.

Cancellation/Rearrangements of Appointment

- If you need to cancel or rearrange your CT Biopsy please contact the Out Patients Department on 1800 300 200 prior to your scan.