Bone Marrow Biopsy

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.
• 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 100.5 degrees F or 38 degrees C

Talk to your doctor or nurse if you have any questions or concerns.