



Northeast Georgia Medical Center

Bone Marrow Biopsy

How should I prepare for this procedure?

- You must not eat or drink anything after midnight the night before your procedure. A sip of water with certain approved medications is the only thing acceptable to be taken by mouth.
- For Gainesville procedures, you will need to arrive an hour and a half before your scheduled appointment time. For Braselton procedures, you will need to arrive an hour to an hour and a half before your scheduled appointment time. For Barrow procedures, you will need to arrive an hour before your scheduled appointment time.
- A nurse from the Interventional Radiology department will reach out to you via phone the day before your procedure.
- For your safety, you must have a caregiver or responsible adult with you to drive you home after your procedure. Due to the effects of anesthesia, sedation, or other post-procedural effects, you will not be able to drive yourself. Additionally, the responsible adult accompanying you will assume responsibility for you upon discharge. This person should be someone who can provide support and care as needed while you recover.

What should I expect when I arrive?

- For Gainesville, you will go to the registration department in the Blue tower of the hospital. When you arrive in the main lobby of the Blue tower, go down the hallway on your left. The registration department is located on the right. Labs will be drawn here if necessary.
- For Braselton, you will go in through the main entrance and check in at the desk. You will be directed to registration from there. Labs will be drawn here if necessary.
- For Barrow, you will go to the registration desk located inside the main entrance of the hospital.
- After registration, you will go to the radiology waiting room. A staff member will show you back to the Interventional Radiology department. Your driver can accompany you back to the prep area.
- A provider and nurse will explain the procedure, go over discharge instructions, and decide what medications can be safely given. An IV for medication administration will be placed.
- When it is time to go to CT for your procedure, your driver will be shown to the waiting room.

What medications will be offered during this procedure?

- Moderate sedation is commonly offered for this procedure. However, medications offered will be dependent on provider discretion the day of your procedure. Moderate sedation is intended to make you comfortable and help with any pain. However, you will be awake for this procedure.
- The medications commonly used for moderate sedation are Versed and Fentanyl.

What should I expect during my procedure?



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- Your nurse will take you to the CT room when it is time for the procedure and you will be positioned on the table as decided by the doctor. You will be lying on your abdomen for this procedure.
- Once the CT tech and your nurse are ready, the doctor will be paged to come to the procedure. When the doctor arrives, your nurse will give you more medication through your IV.
- The doctor will numb you with a lidocaine injection and the CT scan may be used to help guide the needle.
- The skin over the site will be cleaned with an antiseptic solution.
- The bone marrow sample will be removed as follows:
 - A small incision will be made into your skin.
 - For an aspiration, a hollow needle will be inserted through your skin and into your bone. Bone marrow fluid will be drawn up into the needle. You may feel a sharp, stinging sensation when the fluid is removed.
 - For a biopsy, a hollow needle will be used to remove a small sample of solid tissue from your bone marrow.
- The needle will be removed and pressure will be applied to the site.
- A bandage (*dressing*) will be placed over the incision site.

What should I expect after my procedure?

- Minor discomfort may be present that should be controllable by over-the-counter medications (Tylenol, Ibuprofen, etc.) or whatever you normally take for pain at home. No pain medication prescriptions will be provided on discharge. Any significant pain post-procedure would warrant a trip to the ER or a call to the ordering physician.
- You can expect to stay in recovery for a minimum of 30 minutes after your procedure. You will be discharged home after your recovery time is complete.