Northeast Georgia Medical Center

Lung 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.
- Blood thinners need to be held for this procedure. You will need to check with your primary care provider that it is acceptable for your blood thinners to be held for this procedure.

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?

- When it is time for your procedure, your nurse will take you to the CT room.
- You will either be positioned on the CT table on your stomach or your back based on the location of the biopsy.
- Once your CT tech and nurse are ready, pathology and the doctor will be paged to the room.
- The doctor will numb the area with lidocaine.
- The needle will be put into your lung through your skin after making a small cut (incision) in your skin.
- Tissue samples will be taken out of your lung.
- Once enough lung cells or tissue have been collected, the biopsy sample will be sent to a lab for testing.
- After the biopsy is done, pressure will be held at the site to stop any bleeding.
- A bandage may be put over the site where the needle was put into the skin. Stitches aren't needed.

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.
- A chest X-ray will be shot in the recovery area immediately after your procedure. Followed by a second chest X-ray shot 2 hours after your procedure. As long as both X-rays are cleared by a radiologist, you will be discharged home.
- In rare cases, it is necessary for a chest tube to be placed. This would warrant an overnight stay in the hospital.