

# Ultrasound Guided Thoracentesis

## Patient Information

### WHAT IS ULTRASOUND?

Medical Ultrasound is a diagnostic imaging technique that uses sound waves to visualize soft tissue structures and vessels. Since it uses sound waves and not radiation to obtain images of your internal organs, it is deemed safe for use in evaluating pregnant women and patients of all ages. Ultrasound gel is used to conduct the sound waves into the body and to allow the return of those sound waves to produce a picture. This gel is applied over the area to be imaged. A transducer, or probe, is placed on the surface of the gel and is used to obtain images. Ultrasound is used to determine the size and shape of a given structure and to evaluate for pathological lesions and/or other abnormalities. Ultrasound may be used to determine the size and location of fluid collections within the chest or abdomen area.

### HOW TO PREPARE FOR YOUR PROCEDURE:

You must have a referring physicians order. The physician's office may fax the order to our facility prior to your appointment. Please bring a list of your medications with you.

**If you take blood thinners, such as, Coumadin, Plavix, Aspirin or Lovenox, you will need to contact your Primary Care Physician for permission to discontinue any of these medications prior to your procedure. Do not take any over the counter anti-inflammatory medications such as Motrin or ibuprofen.**


- **Coumadin or Plavix: Discontinue 5-7 days prior to procedure**
- **Aspirin: Discontinue 4 days prior to procedure**
- **Lovenox: Discontinue 24 hours prior to procedure**

### WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU ARRIVE:

All patients must register in the North Patient Tower Registration 1(one) hour prior to the procedure and will need a driver after the procedure. Blood work may be required before the procedure. The Interventional Radiology Team will explain the procedure in detail and answer any questions you may have regarding the procedure. You will have an Intravenous line (IV) placed after you arrive. You will receive a local anesthetic for the procedure.

### RECOVERY / HOME:

It is preferable for you to have an escort to drive you or pick you up from the procedure. You may resume your regular diet after completion of the procedure.

 **Northeast Georgia Health System • Imaging Services • [www.nghs.com/Imaging](http://www.nghs.com/Imaging)**

Imaging Center Gainesville  
770-219-8035

Imaging Center Braselton  
770-848-6150

NGMC Main Campus  
770-219-1300