

# Lung Biopsy

You had a procedure called a lung biopsy. The Radiologist used a special needle to collect a small amount of tissue from your lung to examine it for signs of damage or disease. Lung biopsies are performed when lung disease is suspected, to rule out cancer or determine what a mass might be. Here's what to do following the procedure.

## Home Care

- Don't drive for 24-48 hours after the procedure.
- The biopsy site may be tender or mildly bruised for several days after a needle biopsy. Take a pain reliever for soreness as necessary.
- Remove the bandage covering the biopsy site 24-48 hours after the procedure.
- You may shower after the biopsy. When you shower, don't scrub the site. Gently wash the area and pat dry.
- Avoid strenuous physical activity for 5 days after the procedure (eg don't lift anything heavier than 3-4kgs, don't exercise, stay downstairs if double-storey house).
- Returning to light work duties (eg office work) after 24-48 hours is usually acceptable.
- Do not use incentive spirometer or peak flow meter for 2 days.
- Don't smoke, and try to avoid anyone who is smoking.

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**If you experience any side effects please call us on 6382 3888 or contact your GP.**

**If you are still concerned and it is after hours please contact your nearest Emergency Department.**

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## Usual Medications

You may continue your usual medications before and after the lung biopsy EXCEPT blood thinners (anticoagulants).

## Blood thinners/anticoagulants after lung biopsy

Please discuss with the specialist who requested your lung biopsy when to recommence blood thinners. Usually, most can be taken the day after.

## Follow-Up

- Make a follow-up appointment as directed by the specialist who requested your lung biopsy.

## When to call your Doctor

- Sudden increase or shortness in breath
- Dizziness or light headedness
- Sudden chest pain
- Fever above 38.3C or shaking chills
- Bleeding, drainage or an opening at the biopsy site
- Increasing redness, tenderness or swelling at the biopsy site
- Increasing pain, with or without activity
- New or unusual swelling or pain in one or both of your legs or calves

If it is after hours, please call your After Hours GP or go to your nearest Emergency Department.



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