



Patient Information Sheet

Specialist - Bone Marrow Examination

An appointment is necessary for this test

Your doctor has referred you to have a bone marrow “aspiration” or “trephine” performed by a specialist pathologist at Capital Pathology.

Description

Your bone marrow is responsible for the production of blood cells. These cells include red cells, white cells and platelets. It is also involved in the production of lymphocytes. In adults, active bone marrow is present in a number of sites, the most easily accessible of which is the pelvic bone in your lower back.

Procedure

Your bone marrow collection involves two procedures, which are both performed at the same site. You are positioned on your side and local anaesthetic is infiltrated into the area from which the biopsy will be taken.

When the anaesthetic has taken effect, a small needle is introduced into the bone and some liquid marrow is withdrawn.

The second procedure takes a little longer and involves biopsy of the bone itself through a second needle. You will experience a feeling of pressure in the area, and there may be some pain and discomfort associated with the procedure.

When the procedure is completed, a dressing is applied and we will ask you to remain resting for five or ten minutes.


We suggest that you be accompanied home by a friend or relative if possible

Complications are rare. Local bruising occurs occasionally. Other reported complications include local haemorrhage and infection.

After the procedure you may experience some discomfort as the local anaesthetic wears off. This can be adequately treated at home with one or two paracetamol (e.g. Panadol, Panamax). Tablets containing Aspirin should not be taken.

In some instances there may be a small amount of bleeding from the site. Bleeding can be controlled by applying firm pressure to the procedure site.

If you are concerned please ring your local doctor or contact the specialist pathologist who performed the procedure on 6285 9867.



The information from your bone marrow examination will help your doctor in diagnosis or treatment of your condition.

Your doctor will be provided with a written report approximately two days following your bone marrow test. Some further special tests may be performed on your bone marrow. The results from these may take a little longer, and will also be sent to your referring doctor.

Appointment

Your appointment is with:

Dr:

Date:

Time:

Where: Capital Pathology Main Laboratory, Equinox 4, Ground Floor, 70 Kent Street, Deakin ACT 2600

For further information or to make an appointment, please contact your nearest Collection Centre

Updated Collection Centre details may be found:

- On the reverse of your request form
- Website: www.capitalpath.com.au
- Phone: 02 6285 9800