

LIVER BIOPSY

The liver is the largest vital organ in the body and is situated in the upper right part of the abdomen. The healthy liver metabolises proteins, carbohydrates and fats. It also produces bile and removes toxins from the blood.

What is a liver biopsy?

It is a special procedure by a specialist in order to diagnose problems of the liver. A nurse assists the doctor during the procedure and an ultrasound scan is used to accurately locate the biopsy site and direct the biopsy needle. A local anaesthetic is administered after which a special needle is inserted through the skin and into the liver to obtain a small sample of liver tissue. This sample is sent to a laboratory for examination. The procedure takes place in the doctor's rooms and takes less than 20minutes.

Who needs a liver biopsy?

A liver biopsy may be done if you have:

- Symptoms of a liver problem such as jaundice (yellow skin and eyes) or very dark urine.
- Abnormal liver ultrasound or abnormal liver function tests.
- Chronic liver condition
- Treatment with medications which may affect the liver.

Possible risks and complications.

Dr will discuss these with you. As with any procedure, there are possible risks:

- Infection.
- Internal bleeding from the biopsy site.
- Damage to organs near the liver (lungs, gallbladder, intestines). This complication is limited by the use of the ultrasound during the procedure.

Every possible care, however, will be taken to prevent these.

NB! You will be admitted to the hospital for 5-6 hours after completion of the procedure.

Your blood pressure, pulse and temperature will be checked before the procedure and monitored regularly for 4-5 hrs after the procedure.

After the tissue sample is obtained, an adhesive bandage is placed over the incision site.

You are to remain in bed for +/- 5-6hrs until nursing staff inform otherwise.

I have read and understood the information on liver biopsy above and hereby consent to the liver biopsy being performed by dr. FC Kruger.

Signed at..... on this.....

Signature:..... Witness:.....