

COMPUTERIZED AXIAL TOMOGRAPHY (CT Needle) GUIDED BIOPSY

My appointment at Saint Elizabeth Regional Medical Center is on _____
_____ at _____ am/pm

What is a CT Needle Guided Biopsy?

Computerized Axial Tomography (CT or Cat Scan) is an x-ray technique that uses a special scanner and computer to create cross sectional images of your body. CT has the ability to image the body one “section” at a time. These “sectional” images, when looked at in sequence, enable your Radiologist to create a 3-dimensional picture of the internal structures of your body. This helps to identify the area of your body to be biopsied and guides the placement of the needle for the biopsy. The most frequent parts of the body biopsied by CT are the lungs and organs of the abdomen.

Patient Instructions:

A CARE Office nurse from the hospital will call you to confirm your examination and give you instructions regarding your admission.

Starting at midnight, no food or drink is allowed except scheduled medications taken with a small amount of water (especially heart and blood pressure medication). If you are on a blood thinner or Aspirin, please consult your physician several days prior to your examination.

Please come to the Saint Elizabeth Admissions Office for registration. You will then be prepared for your exam in the Saint Elizabeth Short Stay Center. The exam itself will be done in the Imaging Center.

What to Expect:

You will be admitted to the hospital Short Stay Center at least two hours prior to your examination. You will change into a hospital gown and your nurse will take your medical history, blood pressure, pulse and temperature. Lab work will be drawn and an IV will be started.

In the Imaging Center prior to starting the biopsy, the Radiologist will explain the examination to you. You will be awake during the examination and positioned on the CT table. CT images will be taken to locate the area to be biopsied and an injection of contrast (dye) may or may not be given to you, depending upon the Radiologist’s specifications.

Your blood pressure, heart rate, and oxygen levels will be monitored by a nurse during and after the exam. Medication will be available for your comfort. After the area of the biopsy is located, your skin will be cleansed with an antiseptic soap. The Radiologist will inject medication to numb the area of interest. He will then insert a biopsy needle and images will be taken to help position the needle correctly.

Once the biopsy needle is in the correct area, specimens will be removed and sent to the Pathologist for evaluation. More than one specimen may be required. After the biopsy is completed, more CT images may be required. A bandaid will be applied over the puncture site.

After the examination you will be transported to a patient room where you will be monitored for 4-8 hours. Your nurse will assess your blood pressure, pulse, respirations and biopsy site frequently. The Radiologist will write orders for your care. Dismissal from the hospital depends upon the results of your examination.

When You Go Home:

Try to avoid strenuous activity for 2 days. A Radiology nurse will attempt to call you to check on your progress, or you may call the nurse at 219-7211.

The results of your examination will be sent to your physician, and he will contact you regarding the results. If you have any further questions, please contact the Imaging Center at 219-7211.