

Bone Marrow Examination

Patient Information

Haematology Service



The Patient Information Leaflets page on the Trust website is available on the link:
<https://www.wwl.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets> or scan the QR code.

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Introduction

This procedure is performed in the Out-patients Department by trained nurses and usually takes about 30 minutes. There are no special preparations needed before the test (e.g. no need to fast from food or drink) Any anticoagulant medication (medicine to prevent blood clots) should be omitted before the procedure. The timing will be decided by your consultant when they book you for the procedure.

You will be asked to lie on your left side with your knees bent up to your chest, as far as you are able. There is no need to undress, just loosen clothing below the waist (tight girdles will have to be removed). The area at the back of the hip is swabbed with a cleaning solution and then a local anaesthetic is injected, to numb the site.

When the Bone Marrow needle is introduced, you may feel some slight pushing and pressure, then a sharp pulling sensation for a second as a few drops of bone marrow are withdrawn. A dressing is placed over the area, and you will be asked to lie on your back for approximately 15 minutes.

Occasionally a biopsy of the bone marrow is needed. This test is a repeat of the above and takes a little longer. Following either test you do not need to follow any special instructions.

When the anaesthetic 'wears off' you may experience some discomfort (like toothache). A mild painkiller such as paracetamol can be taken if desired.

Complications of the procedure are rare (less than 1 in 100) these include some bruising or bleeding around the needle site but that will subside over the next few days.

If you have any queries, please feel free to contact:

The Haematology Nurse Specialist, Tel 01942 822964 (answer machine)

Monday to Friday, 9am until 5pm.

Please use this space to write notes or reminders

Comments, Compliments or Complaints

The Patient Relations/Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) Department provides confidential on the spot advice, information and support to patients, relatives, friends, and carers.

Contact Us

Tel: 01942 822376 (Monday to Friday 9am until 4pm)

The Patient Relations/PALS Manager
Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Royal Albert Edward Infirmary
Wigan Lane
Wigan
WN1 2NN

Ask 3 Questions

Become more involved in decisions about your healthcare. You may be asked to make choices about your treatment. To begin with, try to make sure you get the answers to three key questions:

1. What are my options?
2. What are the positives and negatives of each option for me?
3. How do I get support to help me make a decision that is right for me?



How We Use Your Information

For details on how we collect, use, and store the information we hold about you, please see patient information leaflet, Ref. **Corp 006** How we use your information, this can be found on the Patient Information Leaflets page on the Trust website, see details on the front cover.

This leaflet is also available in audio, large print, Braille, and other languages upon request. For more information, please ask in the department/ward.

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