



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## **BONE MARROW BIOPSY**

**The following information is a brief description about Bone Marrow Biopsy. If you have any questions after reading this information, please speak with your nurse.**

### **WHAT IS BONE MARROW?**

- ❖ Bone marrow is a soft material that fills the cavity of bones.
- ❖ The primary function of bone marrow is the production of blood cells and hemoglobin.

### **WHAT IS A BONE MARROW BIOPSY?**

- ❖ A bone marrow biopsy is the insertion of a needle into the bone marrow to withdraw of a small piece of tissue for microscopic examination.

### **WHAT DOES THE PROCEDURE REVEAL?**

The tissue removed can be studied for the presence of:

- ❖ diseases involving the formation of blood cells
- ❖ malignant cells
- ❖ chromosome irregularities
- ❖ iron

Bone marrow biopsy can also be performed to monitor the effects of therapy or treatments.

### **WHERE IS THE PROCEDURE DONE?**

The bone marrow biopsy is performed in your room.



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### **HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE?**

- ❖ The procedure takes approximately 15 minutes although the actual needle insertion takes less than 30 seconds.

### **WHAT PREPARATION IS NEEDED?**

- ❖ Blood work, urinalysis, and electrocardiogram (EKG) may be done.
- ❖ After the procedure has been explained, you will be asked to sign a consent form giving your permission for the procedure.

### **Day of Procedure:**

- ❖ There are no dietary restrictions on the day of the bone marrow biopsy.
- ❖ Your nurse will give you your scheduled medication unless otherwise instructed by your doctor.
- ❖ For the procedure, you may wear pajamas or a hospital gown.
- ❖ If prescribed by your doctor, you may be given a sedative or pain medication approximately one hour prior to the procedure.

### **WHAT HAPPENS DURING THE PROCEDURE?**

- ❖ Although a variety of areas can be used, generally the iliac crest (hip area) will be used. You will be positioned on your side or on your abdomen.
- ❖ The rear area of your hip will be cleansed with an antiseptic solution and draped with sterile towels.
- ❖ The doctor will inject the area with a local anesthetic.
- ❖ The doctor will then insert a biopsy needle into the bone marrow. This usually takes less than 30 seconds.
- ❖ After the needle is removed, pressure will be applied to the area for 5 to 10 minutes or until bleeding stops.
- ❖ A sterile dressing will be applied over the site.



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### **WHAT YOU MAY FEEL?**

- ❖ When the local anesthesia is injected, you will feel a stinging sensation then numbness.
- ❖ The removal of the bone marrow usually causes a sharp, brief pain sensation that will quickly pass.
- ❖ You may experience some tenderness at the biopsy site, but it usually is not severe enough to require pain medication.

### **WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE PROCEDURE?**

- ❖ Generally, after a bone marrow biopsy, you may resume your normal activity.
- ❖ If you experience severe pain or note bloody drainage on the dressing, notify your nurse.
- ❖ Generally, the dressing can be removed 24 hours after the procedure and you can shower.

### **SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR QUESTIONS**

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