What is an Ultrasound-Guided Fine Needle Aspiration (FNA) Biopsy?
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Your physician has referred you to us for an Ultrasound-Guided FNA biopsy. An Ultrasound-Guided FNA biopsy is a simple and accurate test used to diagnose superficial masses (lumps) that can be felt or seen on an ultrasound. It uses a thin needle to remove a small amount of tissue instead of surgery. The tissue obtained is then smeared on a glass slide and examined under a microscope.

Why is an Ultrasound-Guided FNA biopsy helpful?

A mass (lump) can be due to an infection, a cyst, or a tumor. By performing an Ultrasound-Guided FNA biopsy, we can tell your physician what the mass is or we can provide other useful information to your doctor.

How is the procedure performed?

First, we take a medical history and do a short physical and ultrasound exam. If the mass is accessible, then we numb the area over the mass (lump) with a local anesthetic agent. Next, the biopsy is taken using a thin needle and syringe under ultrasound guidance. The biopsy is brief and usually consists of several “passes” or biopsies taken from different areas of the mass to be certain that the lesion is adequately sampled. Finally, when the procedure is complete, a band-aid is placed over the biopsy site.

Does the procedure hurt?

The procedure is generally well tolerated. We give a numbing agent to decrease discomfort associated with the procedure.

When can I resume normal activities?

After the procedure, you may resume normal activities immediately.

How long will the procedure take?

The total procedure usually takes about 30 to 45 minutes.

What are the possible complications?

There are usually no significant complications when the Ultrasound-Guided FNA biopsy is performed by an experienced practitioner. However, like any medical procedure, Ultrasound-Guided FNA biopsy does carry with it some risks.

The most common complication is bruising and tenderness in the area of the biopsy. This is usually mild and disappears in a few days.

Complications such as swelling, bleeding, or infections are rare. If these or any other unusual symptoms occur, please call your physician immediately.

Is Ultrasound-Guided FNA biopsy 100% accurate?

We cannot promise 100% accuracy. Statistics have shown that there is a small possibility that, in about 3% of cases, an underlying malignancy may not be found by Ultrasound-Guided FNA biopsy. Therefore, close follow-up with your physician is important.

How will I receive the results of my Ultrasound-Guided FNA biopsy?

A report with the findings from your Ultrasound-Guided FNA biopsy will be provided to your clinician. Please schedule a follow-up visit with your clinician to discuss the results.
DIAGNOSTIC FNA CLINIC

MEDICAL LABORATORY SERVICES, MEDICAL GROUP, INC.

(951) 834-9020
FAX (951) 834-9026

25470 MEDICAL CENTER DRIVE
SUITE 103
MURRIETA, CA 92562