

# Commonly Asked Questions Regarding Fine Needle Biopsy

## What is a fine needle biopsy?

**Fine needle biopsy is a procedure that involves placing a needle into the lump and removing a sample of cells or a small amount of tissue for a pathologist to examine.**

The lump can be located anywhere on your body, but most commonly involves your thyroid gland, breast, skin, lymph or salivary glands. To ensure that the exact location is being sampled, ultrasound or X-ray may be used for deeper lumps.

## Who can perform the fine needle biopsy?

**An experienced doctor.**

The doctor may be a clinician, a pathologist or a radiologist. A specialist cytopathologist then examines the cells.

## Is the needle biopsy painful?

The procedure should be no more painful than having a blood sample taken.

## Does the procedure produce scarring?

**No.**

The needle used in a fine needle biopsy is short and thin, leaving no scars. This is one advantage of this method.

## Does the procedure require an anaesthetic?

**Anaesthetic is rarely required.**

However, under special circumstances a local anaesthetic may be used. You may safely drive home after such a procedure.

## How long does the fine needle biopsy take?

**The procedure only takes a few seconds.**

You may, however, be in the clinic for 20 to 30 minutes if more than one biopsy has to be taken to obtain enough tissue for examination by the pathologist.

## Are there complications associated with fine needle biopsy?

**The test is relatively safe.**

Bruising or slight bleeding may occur around the collection site. If any problems arise following the biopsy, see your referring doctor.

## When are the test results available?

**An interim result may be available shortly after the procedure.**

The final result will be available in approximately 1-2 working days unless further tests are requested. The result will be given to you by your doctor.

## Fine Needle Aspirate Clinic Locations

Appointments are required for Fine Needle Aspirates.

Your referring doctor may make the booking on your behalf. If you are making the booking personally, please contact the clinic most convenient to you. Details of the clinic locations are shown below.

### Metropolitan Clinics

#### Bondi Junction

Shop 1, Ground floor,  
3 Waverley Street  
Ph: (02) 8833 4433

#### Hurstville

Shop 1, 1 Butler Road  
Ph: (02) 9005 7490

#### Miranda

26-28 Gibbs Street  
Ph: (02) 9005 7490

#### North Ryde

60 Waterloo Road  
Ph: (02) 9005 7490

#### Westmead

Suite 6, Ground Floor  
151-155 Hawkesbury Road  
Ph: (02) 8833 4400  
Ph: (02) 8833 4400

### Regional Clinics

#### ACT

Suite 8, Corinna Chambers  
Corinna Street, Woden  
Ph: (02) 6282 3499

#### Armidale

161 Rusden Street  
Ph: (02) 6768 5334

#### Gosford

North Gosford Medical Centre  
66 Etna Street  
Ph: (02) 4324 1088

#### Newcastle

Bradford Close (off Northcott Drv)  
Kotara  
Ph: (02) 4923 4234

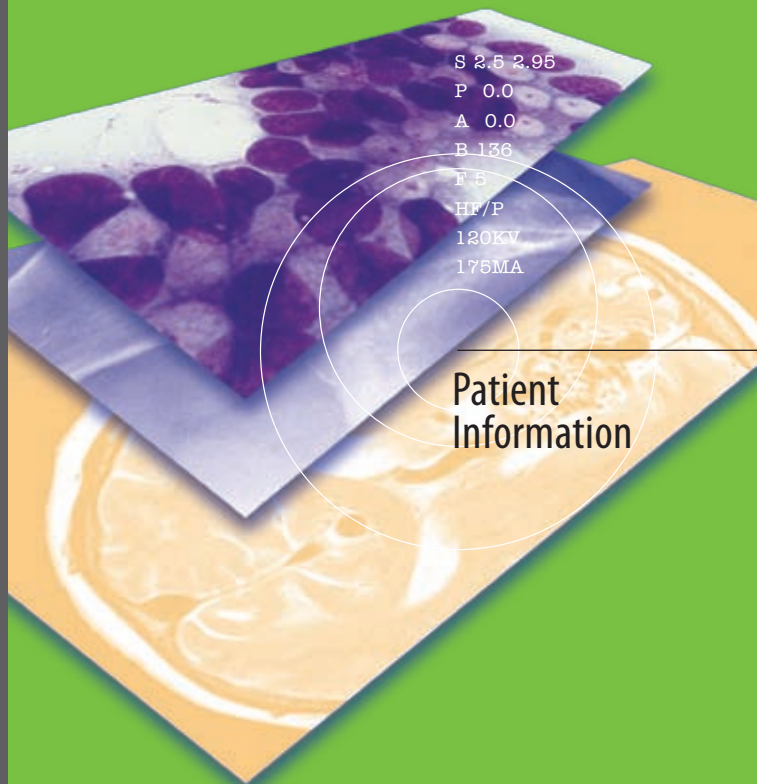
#### Port Macquarie

The Hermitage Medical Centre  
72-80 Lake Road  
Ph: (02) 6583 3499

#### Tamworth

128 Marius Street  
Ph: (02) 6768 5334

# Understanding Fine Needle Biopsy



Patient  
Information

*Your next appointment:*

Date: ..... Time: .....