

Transplant Renal Biopsy – For Patients

Purpose of the procedure:

Renal transplant biopsy is performed to obtain a tissue sample from the transplant kidney. The tissue sample obtained is examined under a microscope to detect rejection or other underlying renal disease. It is a minimally invasive procedure in which ultrasound is used to guide a biopsy needle into the transplant kidney.

How to prepare:

- You will be notified about the time and date of the appointment.
- If you had any blood drawn for tests at an outside blood labs facility within two weeks of the biopsy please have the results sent to your coordinator.
- You cannot eat or drink after midnight or 6 hours before procedure.
- You will need a DESIGNATED DRIVER (as you will receive sedation). You and your driver should allow 5 to 8 hours for the total procedure from arrival to discharge from the hospital.

What should I do with my medications?

- Take your morning blood pressure medication with a small amount of water.
- Bring along any other medication.
- Inform your coordinator if you take insulin. The morning dose will have to be held or adjusted.
- Different blood thinners or anticoagulants will have to be held for varying periods as mentioned below.

How long should I hold my blood thinners (anticoagulants)?

Blood thinners or anticoagulants increase risk of bleeding after kidney biopsy by preventing clot formation at the site of the biopsy. Do not take the following blood thinners before the biopsy to reduce the risk of bleeding.

- Coumadin for 5 days
- Aspirin for 5 days
- Plavix for 5 days
- Effient (Pasugrel) for 7 days
- Pradaxa (Dabigatran) for 5 days
- Lovenox for 5 days

Where to go:

Please check in at the registration desk at the Heart and Vascular Center on the 6th floor of the North Pavilion. The North Pavilion is located on the corner of 6th Avenue and 18th Street. Driver of patient should park in the 4th Avenue parking deck on 18th Street between 4th and 5th Avenue.

What to expect:

Once escorted into the Heart and Vascular Center, you will change into a gown in a private area where you may store your



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personal belongings. Blood will be drawn for labs. An ultrasound technologist, nurse and radiologist will be involved in the biopsy. The procedure will be explained to you in detail by the radiologist and you will be given a consent form to sign. You will be given conscious sedation for the procedure. Although you will be awake you should feel relaxed during the procedure. Our trained specialty radiologists do renal transplant biopsies under ultrasound guidance. This means that the path of the needle tip is visualized real time with ultrasound during the procedure. This is an advanced technique and has supplanted 'blind' renal biopsies done in the past. The sample obtained will be taken to pathology for further evaluation.

A transplant renal biopsy takes 30 minutes to 60 minutes to perform. After the biopsy you will remain under observation for 3 to 6 hours in the recovery area in the Heart and Vascular Center. Our nursing team will monitor for signs of bleeding or any other complication during this period. You will not be allowed to drive home after discharge. So please have a designated driver available.

After the biopsy:

You should avoid any strenuous physical activity for 24 to 48 hours after the procedure. If you have palpitations, light-headedness or worsening pain, it may signify delayed bleeding at the biopsy site and you should go to your local ER. Detailed post discharge instructions are available [here](#). Your doctor's office will receive the biopsy results in 3-5 working days.

Thank you for choosing UAB Radiology!