A guide to...

Liver biopsy after care

Patient information

How to contact us

Ambulatory Care Unit
Watford General Hospital
West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust
Vicarage Road, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD18 0HB
Tel: 01923 436772. Ext: 8772.

If you need this leaflet in another language, large print, Braille or audio version, please call 01923 217 187 or email pals@whht.nhs.uk

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You have had a liver biopsy, what to do next?

Your biopsy results will be sent to your referring consultant, Dr .................. (or other clinician in charge of your care). You may have a date for your follow up appointment. If not, the hospital will contact you in the next few weeks. If in doubt please ring your consultant’s secretary.

You must have someone to collect you and take you home after your liver biopsy and stay with you overnight.

What should you do at home?

You should rest for the remainder of the day and possibly the next day depending on how soon you recover.

If you experience any pain take some painkillers such as paracetamol. Continue to take your normal medication as prescribed unless this includes warfarin or other blood thinning medication. Patients on warfarin should follow advice given by the anticoagulant clinic. Patients on other blood thinning/antiplatelet medication such as clopidogrel/apixaban should restart the medication 48 hours after the biopsy. Patients who stopped aspirin for the procedure should also restart 48 hours after the biopsy.

DO NOT remove any dressing or make it wet for the first 24 hours. If the dressing is soiled you may cover it with another dressing.

You must not fly for 48 hours after your biopsy.

What if I have a problem at home?

Bleeding or swelling from the biopsy puncture site is rare but if it does happen, lie down and apply pressure for 10 minutes. If the bleeding or swelling continues after 10 minutes go to your nearest Accident and Emergency (A&E) Department.

Please contact the Ambulatory Care Unit at Watford on 01923 436 772 Ext: 8772, Monday-Sunday 8.00am to 6.00pm if you need advice.

If you feel you need urgent medical attention or are worried about anything outside our normal opening hours, please contact your GP/NHS Direct/111 or go to your nearest A&E Department.