

Fine Needle Aspiration

WHAT IS A FINE NEEDLE ASPIRATION?

A fine needle aspiration is a type of biopsy where a thin needle is inserted into an area of abnormal-appearing tissue or body fluid and a sample is taken. It is most often done on swellings or lumps located just under the skin such as cysts (fluid-filled lumps), nodules or masses (solid lumps) or enlarged lymph nodes.

HOW IS A FINE NEEDLE ASPIRATION PERFORMED?

This procedure involves an injection of local anaesthetic into the skin and deeper tissue over the area concerned. A small needle is then inserted, usually under ultrasound guidance, and a sample of cells are obtained. A pathologist will review the sample in the radiology department to ensure that there is enough material to analyse.

This examination takes approximately 30-40 minutes.

BEFORE A FINE NEEDLE ASPIRATION:

- Please bring someone with you who can drive you home after the procedure.
- Contact our nurse if you are on any anticoagulants such as Warfarin, Clexane or Aspirin, or if you are a diabetic.
- Please bring any related prior imaging with you.

AFTER A FINE NEEDLE ASPIRATION:

- Although it is unlikely that you will develop any infection at the site of the examination, we ask that you monitor it for any signs of redness and inflammation or increasing pain. **If inflammation or redness does occur, you will need to contact either your GP or your referring doctor.**