

## Your appointment

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_



### Mercy Medical Center

1111 6th Ave., Des Moines  
515-247-4357

Parking is available in the West Ramp or through Valet at the West Entrance. Enter through West Entrance and register at the Medical Imaging Registration Office.

# Liver Biopsy

If you have questions about your procedure or if you need to cancel or reschedule your appointment please call (515) 247-4444. For pain or complications call: 515-247-4657 and ask to speak with a nurse or call your physician.



*A member of Mercy Health Network*  
1111 6th Ave. • Des Moines, IA 50314-2611



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*We are glad you have chosen Mercy Imaging Services. Our staff is dedicated to providing you the best possible experience during your procedure.*

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### **What happens the day Liver Biopsy?**

Avoid taking medications that thin the blood prior to having the Liver biopsy as directed by your physician.

Laboratory tests will be performed on the day of a liver biopsy or no more than 48 hours prior to the procedure, as directed by your doctor. These tests may include a blood count, a platelet count, and a measurement of your blood's ability to clot.

You will need to check-in 1½ hour prior to the scheduled appointment time.

Following the registration process, you will be escorted to a preparation area where you will change into a gown. A nurse will start an I.V., draw labs and take a brief medical history. You will then be escorted to the procedure room in the Medical Imaging Dept. where the liver biopsy will be performed.

The radiologist will explain the biopsy procedure in detail, including possible risks and benefits, possible complications and answer any questions you may have. You will be asked to sign a consent form prior to the start of procedure. You may be shown a video explaining the procedure.

The nurse will then administer a sedative through your I.V. to relax you during the biopsy. You will not be put completely out, you will be awake. It is important that you are able to follow simple commands during the procedure, such as holding your breath for brief periods of time.

You will lie on your back, it is important that you remain as still as possible during the procedure. The

Radiologist will localize the area for the biopsy and may also mark your skin. The doctor or technologist will then clean and drape the area on your upper abdomen. The radiologist will then numb with area with a local anesthetic (pain-relieving medication).

The radiologist performing the biopsy will take several passes with the biopsy needle to get samples of liver tissue for analysis.

### **What happens after the Liver Biopsy?**

After the biopsy is completed, you will be taken to a recovery area where you will rest and be monitored for pain and bleeding for approximately 3 - 4 hours. At the end of the recovery period you will be discharged with a driver and someone to spend the next 24 hours at home with you.

You may feel minor discomfort or a dull pain in your shoulders or back. If necessary, a pain medication will be prescribed for you.

Avoid taking aspirin, products containing aspirin, or anti-inflammatory drugs (such as ibuprofen, Advil, Naprosyn, Indocin, or Motrin) for 24 hours after the procedure or as directed by your doctor. Do not perform vigorous physical activity for at least 48 hours after the biopsy.

If you have an abnormal amount of pain you should either call the Medical Imaging Department at Mercy (515-247-4657) ask to speak with a nurse or call your physician who ordered the procedure.

### **When will I get the results?**

The results of the biopsy will be sent to your physician who ordered the procedure. Your physician will discuss the results of the biopsy with you several days after the biopsy, typically 7 – 10 days.

### **Where do I go for my Liver Biopsy?**

Mercy Medical Center  
1111 6th Ave., Des Moines  
(515)247-4444

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