

BIOPSY

Please read this information sheet. If you have any questions, particularly about the treatment or potential side-effects, please ask Professor.

- A biopsy is a minor operation to take a small piece of tissue for microscopic examination after a local anaesthetic injection in the area, such as used for fillings, and it usually takes less than 30 minutes
- The biopsy procedure is virtually painless, though when the injection wears off after a couple of hours, a little soreness will be experienced
- Sutures or a dressing may or may not be used
- Biopsy, like any interventional procedure may occasionally result in complications such as a little
 - bleeding
 - soreness or pain
 - swelling
 - bruising
- Rarely there may be
 - altered sensation
 - restricted mouth opening
 - reactions to drugs
 - allergies
 - infection
- However, there are usually no long-term consequences
- Please take your normal meals and medicines before the biopsy appointment, unless Professor requests otherwise.

A patient has the right under common law to give or withhold consent to medical examination or treatment. This is one of the basic principles of health care. Patients are entitled to receive sufficient information in a way they can understand about the proposed treatments, the possible alternatives and any substantial risk or risks which may be special in kind or magnitude or special to the patient, so that they can make a balanced judgement. (UK Health Dept. 19.2.99. HSC 1999/031)

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