

Bone Marrow Aspiration/Biopsy

What is a bone marrow aspiration or biopsy?

Bone marrow is the soft, spongy part inside your bones. Your bone marrow makes red blood cells, white blood cells, and platelets.

Bone marrow aspiration and bone marrow biopsy are tests to check how well your bone marrow is working. The results from these tests help your doctor look for signs of cancer or make the best plan to treat it.

After your aspiration or biopsy

Dull pain and soreness is normal for 24 to 72 hours after the procedure. Your doctor or care team will talk to you about how to control your pain.

Do not take aspirin or ibuprofen (Advil® or Motrin®) for at least 48 hours after your procedure.

Take short and easy walks. Walking will help with pain and will help you heal.

If you notice any bleeding where you had the procedure, press on the area firmly with a clean cloth for 5 to 10 minutes. If the bleeding does not stop, call your care team.

Do not get your wound wet. Do not take a bath for 48 hours after the procedure. You may shower, but keep your bandage dry. Cover the bandage completely with plastic wrap and tape down the edges. Take the bandage off 48 hours after your procedure.

Any time you have a cut in your skin, there is a risk of infection. Washing your hands well is the best and easiest way to prevent infection.

Wash or disinfect your hands often, especially after using the bathroom, before eating, and before touching the area of your procedure. Make sure that your caregivers wash their hands too.

When to call for help

Call your care team right away if you notice any of these things:

- Fever of **100.4°F (38°C)** or higher
- Redness, warmth, or swelling around your wound
- Blood or fluid coming from your wound that does not stop when you press on it
- Pain that is severe or that does not go away within 72 hours
- New numbness or weakness in your leg on the side where you had the procedure

Contact your provider or care team if you have any other questions or problems.