

Ultrasound - Biopsy or FNA (Fine Needle Aspiration)

Information for Adult Patients Having a Biopsy or Fine Needle Aspiration (FNA) of the Thyroid or Lymph Nodes under Ultrasound guidance

This leaflet tells you about having an ultrasound guided biopsy or FNA. It explains what is involved and what you need to do before the scan. If you have any questions about the procedure please ask the doctor who referred you for the scan or the ultrasound department where the scan will be performed.

What is an ultrasound scan?

An ultrasound scan uses high frequency sound waves to view the organs of the body.

Are there any risks?

Ultrasound is considered a safe examination as it **does not** involve exposure to radiation.

Do I need to do anything before the scan?

There is no preparation involved.

Where is the ultrasound department?

The ultrasound department is located on the ground floor of the hospital and is clearly sign-posted.

When you arrive

Please go to the reception desk in the ultrasound department. You will then be asked to sit in the waiting room until you are called through to an examination room.

Who will carry out the examination?

The examination will be performed by a consultant radiologist who will be assisted by a clinical support worker.

What happens during the ultrasound scan?

You will be called into the examination room and the radiologist will introduce themselves and ask you to confirm your name, address and date of birth.

You will be asked to remove or pull up your clothing from the appropriate area and then to lie on your back on the examination couch. Ultrasound gel is applied to the transducer (ultrasound probe) which is then moved over the appropriate area. Tissue paper will be used to protect your clothes from the ultrasound gel. (You may find it helpful to wear loose fitting clothes that are easily removed.)

A picture will appear on the monitor of the ultrasound machine and the site for the FNA will be identified.

The radiologist will insert a fine needle into the appropriate area and aspirate some tissue cells. This may be repeated several times. The specimens will be placed on microscope slides which are labelled with your name and unique hospital number and sent to the pathology department for analysis.

Following the procedure a plaster is usually placed over the site of the needle insertion. Please inform us if you are allergic to Elastoplast

How long does it take?

The ultrasound procedure usually takes between 10-15 minutes. We are unable to tell you how long it takes for the pathology department to undertake their analysis.

What happens after the examination?

Once the examination is over you are free to leave the department.

How will you get your results?

The results of your scan will be sent to the consultant, GP or clinic that requested your scan.

Contact information

If you need any further information then please contact the Ultrasound Department, Arrowse Park Hospital on 0151 604 7165.