What is a CT guided biopsy?

- A CT-guided biopsy is a procedure where the Radiologist uses a very small needle to take a tissue or fluid sample from an organ or suspected tumor. The needle is guided while being viewed by the physician on a compound tomography (CT) scanner.

- Most of the time, a CT guided biopsy is done in 45 minutes. You should plan to be in the radiology department for 1-3 hours from start to finish.

Before your procedure:

- A radiology nurse or technologist will ask you a few questions about your medical history. They will also start an IV before your procedure.

- Please inform the technologist, radiology nurse and/or physician of any allergies you have before your procedure.

During your procedure:

- CT guided biopsy is done in the CT scanner where you will either be lying on your back or stomach depending on the area of the biopsy.

- The CT technologist will give you instructions during the procedure. The scanner is open at the back and the front, so the technologist can see you and talk to you during the procedure.

- Usually, the procedure is done using local anesthesia. This will numb the area where the biopsy will be done. If needed, the procedure may be done with conscious sedation.

- Depending on the biopsy location, you may be asked to hold your breath during the scans.

- Once the location to be biopsied is found, the radiologist will biopsy and remove a tissue sample.

After your procedure:

- When the biopsy is done, you will stay in the CT department to recover.

- You may eat and drink as normal after leaving the radiology department.

- All instructions will be given to you before you leave.

- The sample will be sent to a laboratory for results. Results from the test will be sent to your physician, usually within 48 hours.

- Your physician will discuss these results with you and explain what they mean.

Disclaimer: This material provides general information only. It should not be used in place of the advice, instructions, or treatment given by your doctor or other health care professional.