

FAQs

Will the area be numbed before the FNA?

No, not typically. Numbing the area will:

- > Cause yet another needle stick.
- > Possibly be more painful than the actual procedure.
- > Possibly interfere with getting enough of a specimen to make a diagnosis.

Why do an FNA and not just remove the lump?

- > Your lump may or may not need to be removed. The FNA procedure can give your doctor the information needed to help you make a decision about this.
- > Removing the lump involves:
 - Anesthesia and/or numbing of the area.
 - An incision into the skin.
 - Longer healing time.
 - More of a cost.
- > Occasionally your doctor or surgeon needs to know what the lump is before it can be removed.

When can I expect results?

- > In most cases your doctor will receive results in 1 to 3 business days.

HealthEast Medical Laboratory

St. Joseph's Hospital
69 West Exchange Street
St. Paul, MN 55102

Phone: 651-232-3500
Fax: 651-232-3370



Passion for Caring and Service

For more information on additional HealthEast services:

www.healtheast.org | 651-326-CARE (2273) | 651-326-JOBS (5627)

HealthEast[®]
MEDICAL
LABORATORY



FINE NEEDLE ASPIRATION BIOPSY (FNA BIOPSY)

HealthEast
Medical Laboratories
St. Joseph's Hospital

651-232-3500

www.healtheast.org/hmlonline



FINE NEEDLE ASPIRATION BIOPSY (FNA)

Important instructions for the patient:

- Please call 651-232-3168 right away to 'pre-admit.' This saves you time on the day of the procedure.
- When you arrive at St. Joseph's Hospital, go directly to the LAB RECEPTION AREA.

FNA stands for Fine Needle Aspiration.

Fine needle aspirations (FNA) are done to help your doctor to find out what is causing a lump. This procedure is a tool for your doctor to use to help decide how the lump needs to be treated. A pathologist (a doctor who is specifically trained in this area) will be performing the procedure. No special preparation is needed before FNA. A needle smaller than what is used to draw blood will be used for the procedure.



THE FNA PROCEDURE

- > The skin in the area will be cleaned with alcohol.
- > The pathologist will then put a very small needle into the lump; you may feel a prick as the needle passes through the skin.
- > The pathologist will move the needle around a little inside the lump; you may feel a small amount of pressure.
- > Once the needle is removed, a piece of gauze will be held on the area with a little pressure to reduce swelling.
- > The pathologist usually repeats this 2 to 3 times.
- > The specimen that is collected is looked at under a microscope briefly to see if there is enough material.
- > If enough material is not collected, the procedure may be repeated.
- > The pathologist will interpret the results of your FNA.
- > All final reports are sent to your physician.

RISKS OF THE FNA PROCEDURE

- > Slight bruising may occur.
- > Infection - this is extremely rare.

If you experience any severe swelling, fever, and/or pain, please contact your physician immediately, or go to an Emergency Room, or call 911.