PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET

PATIENT INFORMATION FOR
BONE MARROW, ASPIRATE AND TREPINE BIOPSY

DEPARTMENT OF HAEMATOLOGY
WARD 10

IF YOU ARE TAKING WARFARIN TABLETS THESE WILL NEED TO BE STOPPED PRIOR TO YOUR APPOINTMENT – PLEASE DISCUSS THIS WITH THE DOCTOR WHO HAS ORDERED THIS TEST.

If you are unable to keep this appointment please contact Ward 10 on 01202 704775 as soon as possible please.
GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR APPOINTMENT

1. The procedure will take approximately 20 minutes and you will be with us on Ward 10 for one to two hours.

2. On the Haematology Ward (Ward 10) you will be allocated a bed, the doctors will explain the procedure fully and discuss any concerns you may have and you will be asked to sign a consent form.

3. You should wear loose fitting clothes that can easily be removed so that a Hospital gown can be worn.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. WHY IS A SAMPLE OF MY BONE MARROW BEING TAKEN?

This procedure is to extract a small sample of bone marrow for further examination. This can be carried out as an aspirate (removing a sample of cells from the bone marrow) or a trephine (removing a small core of bone with the marrow inside). This procedure is generally carried out as a day care patient with no need to stay overnight.

2. WHY DO I NEED THIS PROCEDURE?

Blood cells are made in the bone marrow. A bone marrow aspirate or trephine is useful in diagnosing various blood disorders and certain infections. There are sometimes other reasons why this test may be needed. Your doctor will discuss this with you.

3. WHERE DO YOU TAKE THE SAMPLE FROM?

It is usually taken from the back of the hip bone or breastbone.

4. WILL I FEEL ANY PAIN?

There may be some discomfort but we try to keep this to a minimum. In order to numb the skin and the surface of the bone, you will be given a local anaesthetic. You may feel some discomfort when the effect of the local anaesthetic wears off, usually after about thirty minutes. It should not last more than a couple of days and should subside with ordinary painkillers such as paracetamol. If pain persists, please let us know.

Entonox, otherwise known as gas and air, is also available for the relief of pain. Please note that you will not be able to drive for 12 hours after the administration of Entonox.

5. ARE THERE ANY RISKS INVOLVED?

There is a small chance that the test site could become infected. If this happens then the area will look very red and feel unusually warm, the site may also bleed and/or secrete some fluid. If you suspect that the test site may be infected please contact Ward 10 so that a review of the site may be arranged.

AFTER PROCEDURE

- A plaster will be applied. You should keep this area dry and the plaster in place for 24 hours.
- After the effects of the anaesthetic have worn off, you may experience some mild discomfort. A simple painkiller such as Paracetamol can be taken at home - if severe pain occurs or bleeding develops, please contact Ward 10 or Ward 11 (telephone numbers overleaf) at any other time.
- The results of the bone marrow procedure usually take 10 working days and you will have been given a follow up appointment to discuss them.