After a Thyroid or Neck Area Biopsy
Medical Imaging – Instructions for Patients

During the biopsy we took a tissue sample. Here are some things you need to know when you go home.

The day of your biopsy:

• Do NOT do any strenuous activity today.

• Eat as you normally would after your biopsy.

• Your referring doctor has told you when to start taking any prescription blood thinning medications again, including warfarin (Coumadin) and heparin. If not, please call him or her when you get home.

The morning after your biopsy:
If you have a bandage over your biopsy site, you can remove it when you get home. You can take a shower.

⚠️ For the next few days:

• You might notice a bruise at the biopsy site. It will start to fade in 7 to 10 days.

• You may have some pain and swelling around the biopsy site. You can take Tylenol for the pain.
When to go to your nearest hospital emergency room

If you had a thyroid biopsy:

• Feel very bad pain in your biopsy area.
• Have increased swelling in your neck.
• Find it hard to breathe.

If you had a neck area biopsy:

• Feel very bad pain in your biopsy area.
• Find it hard to breathe.

When is my follow-up visit?

It can take up to 1 week for the biopsy results to come back. After 1 week, call your doctor if you don’t have this follow-up appointment arranged. We use the safest method for taking a biopsy of your thyroid. This method can lead to results that aren’t always clear. 1 in 5 patients may need to do a second biopsy. Do not be worried if your doctor tells you that you need a second biopsy.

Visit www.uhnpatienteducation.ca for more health information.

Contact us to provide feedback or request this brochure in a different format, such as large print or electronic formats: pfep@uhn.ca