



Patient Information Sheet

Specialist - Fine Needle Aspiration (FNA)

An appointment is necessary for this test

Your doctor has referred you for a Fine Needle Aspiration (FNA).

Fine needle aspiration is a quick and relatively painless diagnostic test, which is performed as an office procedure.

When a lump is palpable, no special equipment is necessary. A very thin needle is used to dislodge cells from the lump either with or without a syringe or syringe holder. The material is then spread on glass slides and stained with special stains. In this laboratory, at least one smear is usually stained while you are with us to ensure that the smears are cellular enough. Further passes with the needle may be necessary, so a diagnosis can be made or special tests performed.

Sometimes there are minor complications to this simple procedure:

- There may be some bruising or swelling, which can be helped by using an ice pack.
- The needle site may ache for a short while afterwards. Paracetamol or similar mild analgesics should be sufficient to ease this ache.
- Rarely you may feel short of breath following the procedure. If this happens please contact your GP for further advice.

A small wound dressing is usually placed over the aspiration site when the procedure is finished. Please tell the staff if you are allergic to such dressings or to adhesives.

Please note FNA's are only performed at our main laboratory in Deakin, Canberra.
The address is on the website www.capitalpath.com.au.

Results are normally available within 24 hours.

For further information or to make an appointment, please contact:

- Histology Secretary on 02 6285 9867