

Paediatric haematology

Bone marrow aspirate and trephine

A guide for families

Introduction

Your child's doctor has decided that they need a bone marrow aspirate and trephine. This leaflet explains what the test involves.

What is a bone marrow aspirate and trephine?

A bone marrow aspirate and trephine is a procedure to remove a small sample of bone marrow for further examination. The aspirate involves removing a sample of cells from the bone marrow and the trephine involves removing a small core of bone with the marrow inside. The procedure is generally carried out as a day case under general anaesthetic. An overnight stay in hospital is not required.

Why does my child need a bone marrow aspirate and trephine?

Blood cells are made in the bone marrow. Examining a sample of bone marrow under the microscope gives information on the way that your child's blood cells are forming and developing. A bone marrow aspirate or trephine is useful in diagnosing various blood disorders and certain infections.

What does the test involve?

Your child's bone marrow test will be performed under general anaesthetic. While your child is under anaesthetic, the doctor will insert a hollow needle into one of the bones containing bone marrow, usually at the top of the pelvis. The needle will then be removed containing the sample.

What happens after the test?

Your child will be able to recover from the test in the paediatric haematology day care unit. The area where the marrow was taken will be covered with a dressing which can be removed 24 hours afterwards. Your child can have a bath or shower immediately if they want to.

For a couple of days after the test, the area may be sore and bruised. Your child may need paracetamol (given according to the instructions) to feel more comfortable unless you have been advised otherwise.

When your child goes home

Your child should be well enough to go to school or nursery the day after the procedure. However, you should make sure that they avoid PE at school and contact sports for one week following the test.

You should call your named nurse or the day care unit if the following occurs:

- the test site bleeds
- the test site oozes a lot of fluid
- there is redness or warmth around the site, or a temperature develops as this is a sign of infection

Who do I contact for more information?

BMT coordinators: 020 3312 5062 / 020 3312 3345 - 07766991070

Paediatric haematology day care unit: 020 3312 5096 / 0203 3125095

Additional patient information is available on our website:



How do I make a comment about my visit?

We aim to provide the best possible service and staff will be happy to answer any of the questions you may have. If you have any **suggestions** or **comments** about your visit, please either speak to a member of staff or contact the patient advice and liaison service (**PALS**) on **020 3313 0088** (Charing Cross, Hammersmith and Queen Charlotte's & Chelsea hospitals), or **020 3312 7777** (St Mary's and Western Eye hospitals). You can also email PALS at **imperial.pals@nhs.net**. The PALS team will listen to your concerns, suggestions or queries and is often able to help solve problems on your behalf.

Alternatively, you may wish to express your concerns in **writing** to:

Complaints department, fourth floor, Salton House, St Mary's Hospital, Praed Street, London W2 1NY.

Alternative formats

This leaflet can be provided on request in large print or easy read, as a sound recording, in Braille, or in alternative languages. Please email the communications team:

imperial.patient.information@nhs.net

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