

Seek medical attention immediately if you experience:

01



Severe abdominal pain

02



Persistent bleeding from biopsy site

03



Redness, warmth, or swelling around the biopsy site

04



Fainting

05



Vomiting blood or passing black stools

06



Shortness of breath

07



Fever above 38°C

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Australian Council on Healthcare
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Malaysian Society
for Quality in Health



European Society
for Medical Oncology



The Royal College of Pathologists of Australia



COLLEGE of AMERICAN PATHOLOGISTS

Accreditation for
Special Haematology Lab

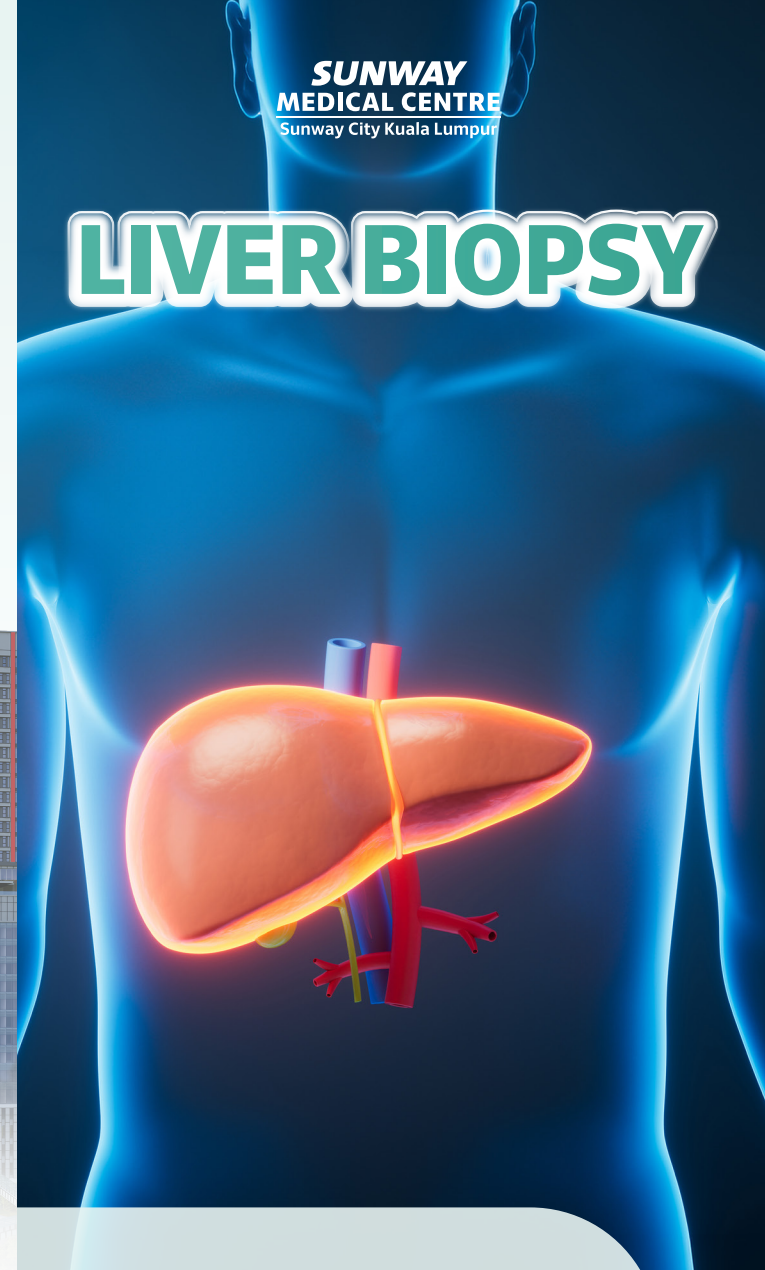


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SUNWAY
MEDICAL CENTRE
Sunway City Kuala Lumpur

LIVER BIOPSY



**Patient
Information Guide**

What is Liver Biopsy?

A liver biopsy is a procedure that takes a small sample of your liver tissue to be examined under a microscope. This helps your doctor obtain a precise diagnosis to guide your treatment plan.

Why is a Liver Biopsy Required?

Your doctor may recommend a biopsy to:

- ✓ Determine the cause of abnormal liver blood tests.
- ✓ Assess the extent of liver damage or scarring (fibrosis).
- ✓ Evaluate the effectiveness of a treatment.
- ✓ Diagnose specific liver diseases or conditions.

Preparing for Your Procedure

Important Checklist:

✓ Medications

Inform your doctor about all your medications. Bring your medication list.

✓ Inform

Let your doctor know if you are taking blood thinners, and ensure you stop them as instructed.

✓ Allergies

Tell your doctor if you have any allergies.

✓ Fasting

Follow specific fasting instructions before the procedure.

✓ Blood Tests

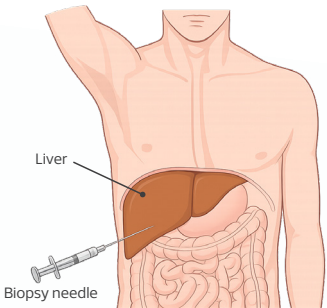
You may need blood tests to ensure your blood clots properly.

✓ Support

Arrange for someone to drive you home, as you may be drowsy.

During the Procedure

The procedure typically takes about 15–30 minutes:



Liver Biopsy

1. You will lie on your back or side.
2. The doctor will use ultrasound to locate the best spot for your liver biopsy.
3. A local anaesthesia is used to numb the area. You will feel a small sting during the injection.
4. A thin needle is inserted through your skin and into the liver. You may be asked to hold your breath for a few seconds. You may feel pressure during the biopsy, but you should not feel a sharp pain.

Most liver biopsies are safe.
Serious complications are uncommon.

Post-Biopsy Complications

Common	Mild pain or discomfort at the biopsy site, sometimes extending to the right shoulder. This usually improves with pain medications.
Uncommon	Minor bleeding or bruising at the biopsy site, which usually stops on its own.
Rare	Internal bleeding, wound infection, or bile leakage. Significant bleeding may require a blood transfusion.
Very Rare	Injury to nearby organs (e.g., gallbladder, kidney, or bowel) or the need for surgery to control severe bleeding.



After the Procedure

- After the biopsy, you will rest and be monitored.
- Mild pain at biopsy site or in the right shoulder is common and usually settles within 1 – 2 days.
- You may resume your normal diet and activities later on the same day.



First 24 Hours After the Biopsy

- Avoid driving
- Rest at home
- Do not lift heavy objects
- Avoid strenuous exercise



Follow-Up and Results

- Your biopsy will be sent to a laboratory.
- Biopsy results are usually available within 5-10 working days.
- Your doctor will discuss the liver biopsy report and your treatment plan during your follow-up appointment.
- Follow your doctor's advice before resuming blood thinners.