

# Bone Marrow Biopsy

## How to take care of the skin site

Your child had a bone marrow biopsy, where a needle was placed through the skin to get a piece of bone and bone marrow.

### To Learn More

- Hematology/Oncology  
206-987-2106
- Seattle Cancer Care Alliance (SCCA)  
206-288-7600
- Ask your child's healthcare provider
- [www.seattlechildrens.org](http://www.seattlechildrens.org)

### Free Interpreter Services

- In the hospital, ask your child's nurse.
- From outside the hospital, call the toll-free Family Interpreting Line 1-866-583-1527. Tell the interpreter the name or extension you need.
- For Deaf and hard of hearing callers  
206-987-2280 (TTY)

### Follow these steps to prevent infection

- Keep the dressing clean and dry.
- Remove the dressing on the morning after the biopsy. If the dressing becomes dirty or falls off, it is OK to remove it sooner. The site probably won't need another bandage.
- Do not leave the dressing on for more than 24 hours. A dirty bandage can increase the chance of infection.
- Wait 24 hours to take a bath or shower. At that point, the dressing can be removed.

### When will I get the test results?

The results will usually be ready within 2 business days. If you have not received a call from the clinic by then, please call.

### Will my child have any pain?

Your child was given pain medicine and a numbing anesthesia shot during the biopsy. This will still be in effect once they wake up. Most children do not need strong pain medicine after a bone marrow biopsy unless it was hard to get the samples. We will tell you if we had a hard time getting the samples and if you can expect your child to be uncomfortable. Let your provider know if your child seems uncomfortable or complains of pain at home.

### When should I call the clinic?

If you notice any of these warning signs:

- Blood oozing or draining through the dressing
- Tenderness or pain at the skin site
- Swelling or redness at the skin site
- Fever above 101 degrees Fahrenheit (38.5 Celsius)

Call \_\_\_\_\_ the Hematology-Oncology Clinic at 206-987-2106

\_\_\_\_\_ the SCCA Clinic at 206-288-7600

Seattle Children's offers interpreter services for Deaf, hard of hearing or non-English speaking patients, family members and legal representatives free of charge. Seattle Children's will make this information available in alternate formats upon request. Call the Family Resource Center at 206-987-2201.

This handout has been reviewed by clinical staff at Seattle Children's. However, your child's needs are unique. Before you act or rely upon this information, please talk with your child's healthcare provider.

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