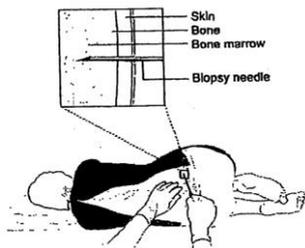


## Bone Marrow Examination

Please read both side of this instruction sheet

### About Your Test

- The bone marrow is the soft spongy tissue inside your bones. It is where the cells of the blood are formed. Your doctor has requested a bone marrow examination to study the cells which form the blood e.g. Are there too many, too few, are the cells normal in appearance?
- Many people feel anxious about the bone marrow examination and what the results might show.
- Samples are taken from the back of the pelvis (hip bone) while you are lying on a bed. A local anaesthetic (painkiller) is put into the skin and onto the surface of the bone to reduce discomfort.
- A special needle is introduced into the marrow tissue and it is drawn into a syringe. From there the marrow is spread on glass slides. Discomfort may be felt while the tissue is being removed, but this will only last a couple of second. Then a needle is used to take a biopsy of the bone. The two specimens are studied together and this provides the information your doctor needs.
- You will be asked to rest on your back for up to 20 minutes after the biopsy. Any discomfort present when the local anaesthetic wears off can usually be controlled by simple pain relief such as paracetamol.
- Complications are extremely uncommon, but with certain conditions there is a risk of bleeding after the procedure is completed. Please notify the clinic if you are on any blood thinning medication such as warfarin, dabigatran and clexane before your appointment.
- Please inform staff if you have an allergy to local anaesthetic.



## What happens next?

The time it takes to examine the bone marrow sample and determine a diagnosis can vary. Some results can be through within a few days, others can take several weeks to be determined. Your doctor will contact you once the results are available in order to discuss these with you.