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FINE NEEDLE BIOPSY

Fine needle biopsies are often helpful in determining without surgery whether the mass is benign or malignant (i.e. cancerous or noncancerous).

Sometimes the biopsy will not definitely indicate cancer or not, but the information gained can still be useful in guiding treatment.

About 5% to 10% of the time the biopsy may be incorrect. The accuracy is lower for some cancers such as lymphoma.

There is a 5% to 15% chance that the biopsy will provide no useful information and in such a case, it may be repeated.

The risks of fine needle biopsy include bleeding, infection, discomfort and nerve injury, but the chance of these occurring is very small.

An alternative to fine needle biopsy is removal of the mass through surgery.

I understand the above and have had all of my questions answered to my satisfaction.

NAME

DATE

Copy given to patient