



## HEPATITIS C

Information, advice, testing,  
support & training service

### LIVER BIOPSY

A liver biopsy is the best way to find out if your liver is healthy or damaged. It is also the best way for your doctor to know whether you have any other complications, such as other types of hepatitis or liver conditions.

During a liver biopsy, a needle will be put into your liver and a small sample of tissue taken. Try not to worry too much because most people only have mild to moderate pain. If you are nervous about the test ask your doctor for some medication to help you relax. The liver biopsy is done while you are awake.

Sometimes, an ultrasound is also performed to take a picture of the liver. This will help to decide exactly where to put the needle for the biopsy.

Some Cautions:

- Half of individuals have no pain afterwards, while another half will experience brief pain that may spread to the right shoulder.
- Occasionally people have to be hospitalized for a day or two afterwards due to the pain or complications.
- Patients are checked for several hours after a biopsy to make sure serious bleeding has not occurred.
- Your doctor will advise you what to do before and after the test.
- A friend or a member of the family will have to take you to and from where you have the biopsy done.