

Patient information

One stop neck lump ultrasound clinic

Information about your neck ultrasound/biopsy/aspiration

If you are known to have problems with blood clotting or are on any blood thinning medicines, e.g. warfarin, please telephone the head and neck team on 01284 713106 or email headneckcns@wsh.nhs.uk

Following your clinic appointment, you may be required to have an ultrasound of your neck. The ultrasound examination may include a biopsy or aspiration, please read the information prior to your appointment.

What is an ultrasound?

Ultrasound examinations use sound waves to produce greyscale images of the body using specialist equipment. The examination does not use radiation, is quite painless and harmless. In order to obtain diagnostic images, a clear ultrasound jelly is placed on your skin. An ultrasound probe then glides along the gel and your skin to make the images. The gel is wiped off afterwards and is water based; it should not stain your clothes.

If you do not have a biopsy or aspiration as part of your scan you will be safe to return home/work and your normal activities straight after the examination. If you have a biopsy or aspiration as part of your scan you will be asked to wait in the department for 15-20 minutes following the procedure to ensure there is no significant bleeding – this is very rare.

Fine needle aspiration

A fine needle aspiration (FNA) is performed to take samples of tissue that can be analysed under a microscope. This is done using a very small needle (smaller than for a blood test) and syringe. An ultrasound machine is used to guide the needle into the right place. An FNA is usually painless and quick (5-10 minutes). A small dressing will be put over the puncture wound, and gentle pressure applied.

Biopsy

Local anaesthetic will be injected in and around the area of interest, after which a small nick will be made in the skin using a scalpel. A special biopsy needle will be used. The needle has an integrated spring that can make a slight noise. This needle takes the sample using the ultrasound for guidance. One or more samples may be taken. After the sample has been taken pressure will be applied to this area, and a small sticky plaster applied. Before the procedure begins you will be asked to give informed consent.

When will you get the results?

Your ultrasound will be performed by a consultant radiologist, they will not give you the results during the examination. The scan images will be examined after your visit and a written report on the findings will be sent to your referring doctor. Any samples will be sent to the laboratory and the results will be sent to your referring doctor.

Staffing gender restrictions

Please be aware that, depending on the date and time of your appointment, the doctor who will carry out your examination could be male or female, as could the imaging assistant or nurse who will be assisting. If you have any objection to having either only male staff or only female staff in the room with you, please let us know in advance so we can check, as it may not be possible to change this when you attend and therefore your examination would have to be postponed.

Accompanying children

It is not advisable to bring children when attending this appointment as there are no child facilities available. Children accompanying patients for imaging appointments must be able to remain unattended, as legally staff cannot look after them.

If you have any questions regarding this examination, please telephone the head and neck team on **01284 713106.**

If you would like any information regarding access to the West Suffolk Hospital and its facilities, please visit the website for AccessAble (formerly DisabledGo) <https://www.accessable.co.uk>



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