

Needle and Open Biopsy Information Sheet Oncology/Trauma Section of the Orthopedic Department

General indications for the procedure:

Biopsy has been recommended to diagnose the abnormality seen on radiographic imaging. This is to obtain tissue to be looked at under the microscope as well as for diagnosis of the underlying abnormality.

Description of Procedure:

Biopsy is performed either with a needle through a very small incision or by an open biopsy depending on the location and the size of the tumor. Depending on the depth of the mass, this will be done under local, regional, or general anesthetic. Sometimes x-ray guidance is necessary. After a biopsy is obtained, it is sent to the Pathology Department for analysis.

Risks of the Procedure:

Risks including infection of the incision site, pain at the incision site, injury to vascular or neurologic structures, fracture of the bone through the biopsy site if it is a bone biopsy, and a biopsy that is not diagnostic, which means the pathologists are unable to determine the diagnosis; this occasionally requires an additional or more invasive biopsy.

Procedure Alternatives, if any:

The alternative is to elect not to have the biopsy.

Probable Consequences of Refusing Procedure:

Probable consequences would be not knowing the diagnosis and being unable to initiate treatment.

Person(s) Performing the Procedure:

The key portions of this procedure will be performed by the attending physician with the assistance of the Resident staff. The portions of the procedure performed by the Resident staff will be based on their level of competency and under the direct supervision of the attending physician.