Transplant Kidney Biopsy

Your transplant doctor wants you to have kidney biopsy. This is also called a renal biopsy. A biopsy is a test that involves using a needle to collect small pieces of tissue to be checked in the lab. The tissue from this test is checked under a microscope to find the cause of the kidney problem.

A biopsy can be done for many reasons. With a transplanted kidney, it is often to check why serum Creatinine or BUN are high or why protein levels are high in urine.

To Prepare for the Biopsy

- If you are take any medicines to thin your blood such as Coumadin or Warfarin, Plavix or Clopidogrel, or aspirin, you may be told to stop taking it before this test. Check with your doctor about when to stop and when to restart the medicine after the test.

- Take all your medicines the morning of your test, except the blood thinners. Be sure to include your anti-rejection pills and insulin, if you are on it.

- You may have a light breakfast on the day of test.

- Bring a list of all of your medicines. Be sure to include any prescription and over the counter medicines, herbals or vitamin and mineral supplements.

- Bring any medicines you are scheduled to take through the rest of the day.

- **For your safety, you need to have an adult with you to take you home after the test. You should not leave alone or drive yourself.**

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Day of the Biopsy

**Please be ready to spend most of the day in the hospital** because after your test, you will need to stay for recovery time of 4 hours or more.

This test takes 30 minutes to an hour. The staff will work to keep you comfortable during the test. Tell the staff if you have any discomfort.

- Be sure to use the bathroom to empty your bladder before this test.
- Your doctor will talk to you about the test and the risks of the test. Be sure to ask the doctor any questions you have about the test. You will be asked to sign a consent form.
- You will be awake during the test. Medicine is used to numb the skin over the kidney. You will lie on your back. The doctor will mark the entry site, clean the skin, and inject a numbing medicine.
- The doctor will use ultrasound to find the right spot to put the needle into the kidney. You may feel a small “pop” as the needle enters the kidney. The doctor may need to collect more than one kidney sample.

Where to Check in for the Biopsy

- You need to register on the 2\textsuperscript{nd} floor of Doan Hall in University Hospital. After you register, you will go to RPR (Radiology Prep and Recovery).
- The nurse will prepare you for the test. This includes placing an IV line and drawing blood for routine labs.
- You will be taken to the procedure room for your test.

After the Biopsy

- You should lie on your back for about 4 hours. This is done to prevent bleeding at the site. You can have sips of water. It can be hard to eat when you are flat on your back, but try small bites.
- You may notice some blood in your urine after the test. Save the urine in the bathroom for the nurse to check for any bleeding.
- Your blood pressure and pulse will be checked often. The nurse will check any urine that you pass.
• Blood tests will be done to check your hemoglobin level. If too much blood was lost with bleeding, you may need a blood transfusion, but that does not happen often.

• If your test shows you need urgent treatment or there are problems after the biopsy, you will need to stay at the hospital. The most common concerns after biopsy are bleeding in and around the site area, or problems with the needle used during biopsy. A fistula can occur if an artery or vein is injured during the test. Otherwise, when you are ready to go home, the nurse will talk to you about home care.

• **If you have mild pain or discomfort after the test, take acetaminophen** (Tylenol) as directed on the medicine label. **Do not** take ibuprofen medicines (Motrin or Advil).

• Your doctor will get the test results in about 3 days. Your transplant coordinator or doctor will call you to talk about the results.

**Call your doctor or nurse right away** if you have these signs:

• Feel faint or dizzy

• Swelling or bloating in the abdomen

• Pain gets worse at the test site, back, or is not relieved by taken acetaminophen (Tylenol)

• Problems or difficulty urinating, or blood in your urine for more than 24 hours after the test

• Fever

Talk to your doctor or others on your health care team if you have questions. You may request more written information from the Library for Health Information at (614) 293-3707 or email: health-info@osu.edu.