



**The Pathology Laboratory**  
830 West Bayou Pines Dr.  
Lake Charles, LA 70601  
(337) 436-9557 Fax (337) 312-1311  
www.thepathlab.com

Lehrue Stevens, Jr., M.D., Emeritus  
Gault Townsend, M.D., Emeritus  
Regina Burton, M.D.

Paula Eapen, M.D.  
Brandi Kelly, M.D.  
Thad Primeaux, M.D.

Stephanie Richard, M.D.  
Robert Rumsey, M.D.  
John VanHoose, M.D.

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## **Bone Marrow Aspiration and Biopsy Procedure Guidelines & FAQs for the Ordering Clinician**

### **❖ Scheduling the Procedure**

*Who can I contact to schedule the bone marrow procedure?*

Please contact Tyler Landry, Executive Assistant at The Pathology Laboratory at (337) 312-1270.

### **❖ Anesthesia Selection**

*What kind of anesthesia is used for the patient during the procedure?*

The first consideration is the management of anesthesia. You have three (3) choices:

- 1) Perform the procedure in OR under general anesthesia (most expensive option).
- 2) Perform the procedure under conscious sedation\* using an anesthesiologist or nurse anesthetist.

**\*NOTICE: This requires oversight by someone certified in ACLS, which none of the pathologists have; therefore, use of this option requires a qualified MD on site during the procedure. It is the ordering clinician's responsibility to secure this coverage.**

**Conscious sedation cannot be used without fulfilling this requirement.**

- 3) Perform the procedure using standard local anesthesia such as Lidocaine (least expensive option).

### **❖ Location of the Procedure**

*Where can I schedule the procedure location?* Your options include, but are not limited to:

- Hospital OR / procedure room
- In-patient bedside
- Recovery room
- Surgicare – 2100 Lake St, Lake Charles, LA 70601
- The Pathology Laboratory – 830 W Bayou Pines Dr, Lake Charles, LA 70601

**NOTICE:** The location is determined in conjunction with the clinician's preference and anesthesia selection, patient's insurance coverage and preference, and the pathologist's schedule.

## ❖ Reason for Procedure and Other Necessary Information

Our team is here to help you with any questions you may have before, during, and after the procedure; therefore, we may ask for some necessary information such as the patient history & physical, blood work results, diagnosis, and reason for the bone marrow procedure.

- *What information are you looking for as a result of this procedure?*
- *What clinical question(s) do you wish for us to answer?*

## ❖ Consent Forms

*Who takes the patient consent forms?*

Necessary consent forms include the Patient Consent and Material Risk. These will be obtained by the pathologist performing the procedure.

## ❖ Requested Testing

*What kind of tests and procedures are performed for a bone marrow aspiration and biopsy?*

**Routine Testing** – at a minimum, all patients receive the following tests

- CBC with differential – performed day of the procedure
- Bone marrow aspiration & biopsy – collection and testing
- Flow cytometry analysis – must be sent out same day

**Optional Testing** – these tests may be ordered if additional testing is desired

- Cytogenetics
- Molecular studies
- Cultures

## ❖ Turn-Around-Time (TAT) for Reporting

*What kind of turnaround time can I expect for my patient's test results?*

As there are multiple parts to this examination, each has its own expected TAT, so the entire completed report may take several days. Several factors may influence the actual timing of results.

- CBC with differential – 2 hours
- Bone marrow aspirate and biopsy – 36 hours
- Flow cytometry analysis – 36 hours
- Cytogenetic analysis – 3-10 days
- Molecular studies – variable
- Cultures – preliminary report is 24 hours; final report is usually 7 days

## ❖ Cost of Service and Responsibility for Payment

*What is the cost of service and who is responsible for payment? Are there additional service fees?*

The prices for the testing associated with the procedure are subject to change without notice and are also dependent on the patient's specific insurance coverage. Ultimately, the cost is solely the responsibility of the patient regardless of his/her insurance coverage. Please contact us in advance if there are specific questions regarding the cost of services and testing. **NOTICE:** There may also be a facility charge (regardless of anesthesia) and an anesthesia charge (if anything other than local anesthesia is used).

## ❖ Procedure Preparation

*What items and materials are needed to for the procedure? How much space is needed for specimen*

*handling and processing?* If not provided at collection site, the performing pathologist and/or assistant will bring a bone marrow tray containing all necessary supplies for the procedure. **Always ensure there is adequate work space** at the selected location for all team members, as well as a table or countertop for specimen processing and materials. Please contact Tyler Landry, Executive Assistant, at (337) 312-1270 with any specific questions regarding necessary supplies and work space.

## ❖ Site of Procedure

*What is the preferred site of collection for a bone marrow aspiration and biopsy?*

**NOTICE:** You need not specify. This is for your information only.

Virtually, all of the samples are obtained from the **posterior iliac crest**. In sedated patients, such as those in the ICU, the anterior iliac crest could be a consideration, especially if it is difficult to roll the patient on his/her side. **We do NOT ever perform sternal aspirates.** Biopsies are not possible from the sternum. Lastly, always use heparinized syringes for aspiration to avoid clotting.

## ❖ Procedure Limitations

*What clinical situations could impact the procedure and/or specimen?*

- ! **Decreased PLT count** – could cause the procedure to be abandoned that day.
- ! **Patient use of anti-coagulants** – not usually a contra-indication for the procedure.
- ! **No Friday, pre-holiday, or pre-severe inclement weather procedures** – parts of the sample are sent to outside laboratories for evaluation; therefore, transport and timing may be an issue.
- ! **Inadequate space** – may result in delay of procedure and specimen processing.

## ❖ Patient Site Care

*What kind of care is given to the patient after the procedure is complete?*

We require the patient to remain at the procedure site for 30-60 minutes after completion of the procedure.

We utilize pressure on the site with a bandage by having the patient lay on the site for 30-60 minutes.

Staff will monitor for bleeding, which is rarely an issue. Additional pressure and ice packs are the first line of treatment if this occurs. Once the patient is released, there should be minimal pain, requiring only OTC medications such as ibuprofen. No restriction of activities is required.