For us, cancer is personal

Bone Marrow Examination
Your doctor has arranged for you to have a bone marrow examination.

Your appointment is for:

You will be admitted as a day inpatient. You may eat a light meal up to two (2) hours prior to your appointment and then clear fluids only.

It is important that you do not wear any nail polish on the day as it may interfere with the oxygen monitoring equipment.

What is a bone marrow examination?
A bone marrow examination is a procedure involving taking a sample of your bone marrow, usually from the back part of your hip bone. Bone marrow is the spongy tissue in the centre of your bone. It is the tissue where blood cells are made. By looking at a sample of your bone marrow under a microscope, your doctor can find out if any changes have occurred. If you are already having treatment, your doctor can assess how your treatment is working.

How is a bone marrow sample taken?
You will be given an injection that will make you relaxed and drowsy (sedation). Local anaesthetic will be administered to numb the area from where the bone marrow sample is taken. This may sting a little. The bone marrow sample will be taken using a special needle and all you should feel is a slight pressure in this area during the procedure.
How long will it take?
The procedure will take 15 to 20 minutes. Afterwards you will remain in the centre for approximately one hour to make sure the area does not bleed and to recover from the sedation.

Your doctor will discuss the results of your bone marrow examination with you at your next appointment. Should you have any questions please ask your doctor or nurse.

What should I expect?
Following the procedure, a small dressing is placed over the area. This may be removed after 24 hours. You may feel some soreness, but this should not stop you from normal activities. Your doctor will recommend medications for any discomfort you may experience. If there are any signs of oozing or bleeding, please ring the centre to speak to your doctor or nurse.

Care following sedation
Prior to the procedure you will be given an injection of a mild sedative drug to prevent discomfort during the procedure. This drug may affect your memory, which is why you may be unable to recall the procedure. The major effects of the drug (sedation) wear off quickly. However, the minor effects on memory, balance and muscle function may persist for some hours. These effects vary from person to person.

It is unlawful for you to drive on the day of the procedure. You must not operate machinery or sign important documents.

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In addition, take care when handling sharp objects, hot liquids and electrical appliances.

If you are unable to arrange alternative transport home, the procedure will be delayed or may be performed without sedation.

Care of biopsy site
1. Once the effect of the local anaesthetic has worn off, you may feel some discomfort in the site of the procedure which may persist for a number of days. Panadol or Panadeine may be taken, however aspirin must be avoided. If discomfort increases, please contact your doctor.

2. Notify your doctor of excessive bleeding from the site.
3. You may remove the dressing after 24 hours.
4. Apply a fresh dressing if ooze is present, otherwise leave dressing off.
Icon Cancer Care locations

**Adelaide**
First Floor, Tennyson Centre  
520 South Road  
Kurralta Park SA 5037  
P 08 8292 2333 | F 08 8292 2287

**South Brisbane**
Level 5, Mater Medical Centre  
293 Vulture Street  
South Brisbane QLD 4101  
P 07 3737 4500 | F 07 3737 4701

**Townsville**
9–13 Bayswater Road  
Hyde Park QLD 4812  
P 07 4795 7100 | F 07 4795 7101

**Chermside**
Level 1, Chermside Medical Complex  
956 Gympie Road, Chermside QLD 4032  
P 07 3737 4500 | F 07 3737 4801

**Southport**
Level 9, Premion Place, 39 White Street (Corner Queen and High Streets)  
Southport QLD 4215  
P 07 5657 6400 | F 07 5657 6401

**Wesley**
Level 1, Wesley Medical Centre  
40 Chasely Street  
Auchenflower QLD 4066  
P 07 3737 4500 | F 07 3737 4601

This information was current at the time it was published and is intended as a guide only. It is not intended to replace information provided by your doctor or nurses. Each patient is an individual and responses may vary. If you have any questions, please talk to your doctor or clinic nurse.