

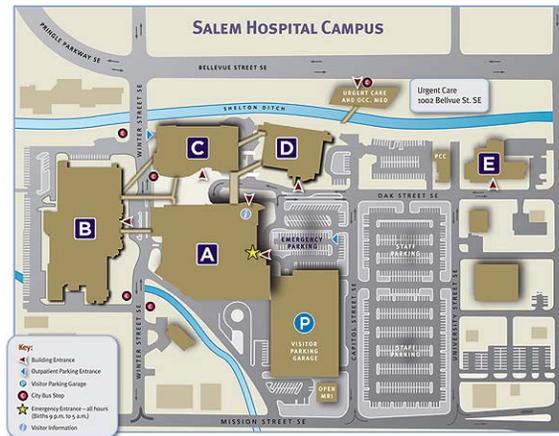
## Why did my doctor order a bone marrow aspiration and biopsy?

The bone marrow is where the body's blood cells are made, including red blood cells, white blood cells and platelets. Examining the bone marrow can provide valuable information in the evaluation of blood-related disorders. These tests may be used to find the reason for high or low blood counts. Bone marrow examination is also used to diagnose and stage certain blood diseases, such as leukemia and lymphoma.

## How does the billing work?

You normally receive 2 bills, one from the provider who performs the biopsy and one from Pacific Pathology Associates, Inc. for processing and interpreting the biopsy. Occasionally, you may receive a 3<sup>rd</sup> bill from an outside lab for special tests, if needed.

Located on the 1st floor of the  
**Center for Outpatient Medicine**  
**Salem Hospital Campus**  
**Building C**  
875 Oak Street SE  
Salem, OR 97301



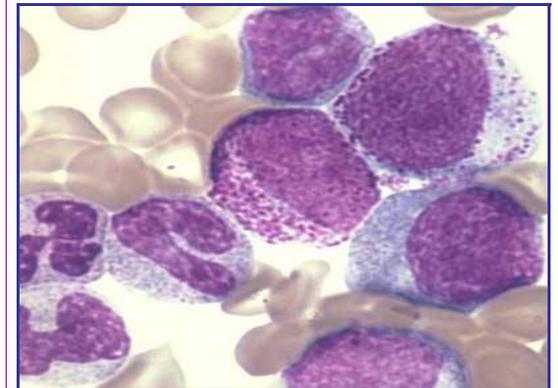
For questions about side effects from the procedure, or for the results, please call your provider.

For questions about billing from Pacific Pathology Associates, Inc. please call 1-866-587-6731.

Bone Marrow Aspiration FAQ  
July 2009

## Questions & Answers About

## Bone Marrow Aspiration and Biopsy



**PPA** Pacific Pathology  
Associates, Inc.

### **What does the procedure involve?**

For the test, you will need to lie on your side or your stomach. A needle is placed into the back of the hip bone.

A syringe is used to draw out some of the bone marrow fluid (bone marrow aspiration). A small sample of bone will also be taken (bone marrow biopsy).

### **Will it hurt?**

There is some discomfort associated with the procedure; however, medication will be used to numb this area and minimize this discomfort as much as possible.

You will feel some pressure on your hip bone during the procedure. Some people experience a stinging sensation when the bone marrow sample is taken, but this only lasts a few seconds.

### **What does my doctor need to know before doing this procedure?**

Let the doctor know if you are allergic to Iodine or Lidocaine. These agents are used during the procedure, but alternatives can be used if you are allergic. Also let your doctor know if you have a bleeding disorder.

### **What are the risks of bone marrow aspiration and biopsy?**

Complications are uncommon. There may be some bleeding from the biopsy site. This is usually minor and soon stops. Rarely, the bleeding may be more severe. There is also a small risk that the area will become infected after the biopsy.

### **What happens after the test?**

You will be asked to stay in bed for 20-30 minutes after the procedure is over to make sure there is no serious bleeding. There may be some soreness and bruising over the test site for a few days.

Over-the-counter pain medications, such as Tylenol, can be used to ease any discomfort. A bandage will be placed over the test site.

It is best to keep the wound covered for at least two days to minimize the risk of infection, however, it is okay to shower or get the bandage wet. There are no activity restrictions after the test is over, as long as you have not been given a sedative.

### **How long does it take to get results?**

Some of the laboratory tests take a few days to complete; however, preliminary results are often available the next day. Please call your provider for the results.