

How do I schedule an FNA?

FNA procedure scheduling is very convenient.

Your medical provider can easily schedule an FNA by contacting Pacific Pathology Associates, Inc. at (503) 561-5350.

The FNA procedure requires only a single outpatient visit and lasts about 30 minutes. Since the FNA procedure allows you to resume your normal routine immediately following the procedure, it does not greatly interrupt work or home life.

Is FNA expensive?

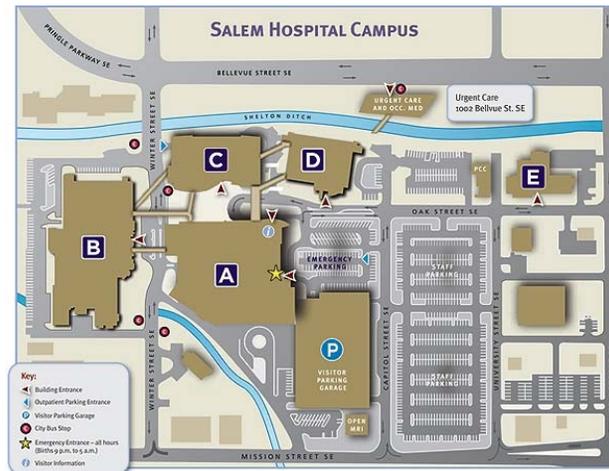
FNA is very cost effective compared to alternative methods.

One advantage of FNA is the cost savings over biopsy. FNA is usually one-fifth the cost of a surgical biopsy traditionally utilized to obtain the same information. FNA is also covered by Medicare and most other types of medical insurance.

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

The FNA Clinic is located in the
Center for Outpatient Medicine
875 Oak Street SE, Salem, OR 97301
Salem Hospital Winter Street Campus
Bldg. "C" on the 1st Floor

Check in at the front desk below the
sign that says
"Laboratory, SHAPES"



Questions and Answers about Fine Needle Aspiration (FNA)

PPA Pacific Pathology
Associates, Inc.

A lump has been discovered and you are understandably anxious.

Now you can have a safe and accurate diagnosis of your lump very quickly.

The Fine Needle Aspiration (FNA) technique diagnoses lumps or masses inside or on the breast, thyroid, salivary gland, lymph nodes, any lump on the body, or any mass that can be detected by sight or touch.

FNA offers several advantages:

- **FNA provides rapid results, usually your doctor receives preliminary results the same day.**
- **The procedure is safe and minimally invasive.**
- **FNA is accurate.**
- **The process is convenient, it takes about 30 minutes.**
- **Normal activity can resume immediately.**
- **FNA is cost effective.**

What happens during the procedure?

During the FNA procedure, the cytopathologist guides a very small needle into the area of concern and aspirates a small sample of cells.

Usually, two to three samples will be required from the lump to provide an accurate diagnosis. Each sample takes about 10 to 20 seconds to obtain. The sample is then processed, placed onto a slide, and a smear is made. The entire FNA procedure takes only about 30 minutes.

The smears are stained and examined by a cytopathologist, who determines what kind of cells are present.

When do I receive my results?

FNA results are usually rapid.

Unlike the lengthy process of surgical biopsy, which can take several weeks with referrals, imaging, surgery, and finally the diagnosis, FNA results are available quickly.

A preliminary report is usually telephoned or faxed to your provider the same day as the FNA procedure. The final written report may require between 24-72 hours to complete.

The results can be grouped into 3 categories:

1. Clearly benign - not cancer
2. Clearly malignant - cancer
3. Non-definitive, less clear - most often, this will be followed by a surgical biopsy.

Is the procedure safe?

FNA is very safe.

FNA is an outpatient procedure and requires no preparation on your part. (There is no fasting, etc.) Once the FNA procedure is complete, you are free to immediately resume your normal activities.

Possible complications from FNA can include minor bleeding or bruising at the aspiration site, or, in very rare cases, infection. If these effects are worrisome, please call your regular medical provider.

Is it going to hurt?

FNA is a minimally invasive procedure.

The needle used in the FNA procedure is very thin, generally smaller than the needle used to draw a blood sample. Most people say it feels similar to a pinprick.

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

Is the diagnosis accurate?

FNA produces accurate results.

When the FNA is obtained and interpreted by a pathologist, the diagnosis is very reliable.