



Neck Lump investigations - Patient information.

You have been referred for an Ultrasound scan, following a consultation with your GP, and this procedure should have been explained to you in outline.

What happens next?

You will be contacted by phone, text and/or letter by the Radiology Department at Barnsley Hospital and given a date and time to have an Ultrasound sound scan of your neck. This will happen in an appropriate time-scale and prioritised according to the information supplied by your GP.

What is an Ultrasound scan? A probe is used with a gel which is pressed on to your neck. It is a non-invasive sound wave picture of the softer parts of the interior of your anatomy, showing details which cannot be revealed by an X-ray.

The day of Ultrasound scan:

You will be scanned in the Radiology Department at Barnsley Hospital by a qualified Sonographer. The Sonographer will interpret your scan and discuss with a Radiology Consultant if required. If a lump is identified that can be, and needs to be biopsied then the Radiology Department will inform you and organise this.

If you do not require any further investigations or tests the Ultrasound scan report will be sent to your GP, who will arrange to discuss with you the outcome of the scan.

If you require a biopsy:

The Radiology Department will inform you where and when the procedure will take place. The needle biopsy will be performed in an appropriate time-scale, in accordance with the results of your Ultrasound scan. This is carried out by inserting a needle into the area where a lump is to gain material for analysis

If you are taking any blood thinning tablets you will be contacted by Surgical Admissions on Ward 31 as you may need to attend the department a few days before your appointment, to adjust, if necessary, your medication, prior to the procedure, in order to reduce the risk of bleeding.

After the Biopsy:

After the procedure you may be sent to Surgical Assessment for a short period of observation before being discharged home.

Do and Do-not advice will be given by the Radiology Department, following the biopsy.

Once the biopsy results are available, which may take approximately 2 weeks; one of the following actions will be taken;



- If, for some reason, the sample is inadequate, the sampling procedure may have to be repeated or you may be brought to a clinic for further assessment, in either case, an appointment will be advised by phone, text and/or letter.
- You may require further investigations and/or a consultation with one of our specialist teams within the hospital. If you do require further intervention you will be contacted and informed of the details, whether this be further scans and/or a consultation with the appropriate specialist team.
- A letter may be sent out to your GP advising on the most appropriate referral, if any is required.
- If you require no further intervention the results will be sent to your GP who will explain the results to you.

Please try to keep any appointments you are sent to avoid delays in detection, possible further investigation and/or urgent treatment which may be advised.

If you are unable to keep an appointment, please contact the department relevant to your stage of investigation or treatment in order to re-arrange the appointment and help us at NHS to keep appointment wastage to a minimum.

Contact information:

Radiology Outpatient booking clerks (Ultrasound) 01226 434340
Surgical Admissions (Bridging advice) 01226 431287
General Advice – Head and Neck Clinical Nurse Specialists: 01226 432419
Clinic Appointments 01226 434343

If you require this information in alternative format, please contact the **Patient Advice and Complaints Team on 01226 432330**