

Introduction

This technique uses a fine needle to obtain cells and tissues in a quick and safe manner for cytological assessment and allows easy confirmation or exclusion of certain disorders and facilitates further management.

The Operation

Fine needle aspiration can be performed as an outpatient or inpatient procedure. There is no restriction concerning intake of food or fluid before or after the procedure.

If there is a palpable lump then a fine needle is inserted by the pathologist through cleaned skin and moved back-and-forth a number of times to sample the tissue. Some pain and discomfort may be felt. The needle is then removed. The cells collected inside the needle are expressed and then spread onto a glass slide. The small needle puncture wound on the skin is covered with dressing and the patient can then go home.

For deep lesions detected on X-ray or CT-scan etc., the same procedure will be done by radiologist or clinicians under imaging guidance. Repeat aspiration may be necessary if the material aspirated is inadequate.

The material on the slide is then stained and the cells are examined by a pathologist. A diagnosis is then made, and report is sent to the referring doctor for further action.

Preparation

1. A written consent is required.
2. No fasting is required.

Post Procedure Care & Advice

Minor bleeding may occur and can be controlled by local pressure.

Common Risks and Complications

Aspiration of lung shadow (under CT-guidance) may lead to bleeding or pneumothorax (air trapped inside the pleural cavity) Pneumothorax could resolve by itself or by inserting a chest tube to drain out the air.

Should you have any queries, please consult your doctor-in-charge.

Remarks

This is general information only and the list of complications is not exhaustive. Other unforeseen complications may occasionally occur. In special patient groups, the actual risk may be different. For further information please contact your doctor. Evangel Hospital reserves the right to amend this leaflet without prior notice. We welcome suggestions or enquiries on the information provided in this leaflet. Please contact our Healthcare professionals so that we could follow up and make improvement.

Reference:

Wikipedia: *The Free Encyclopedia "Fine-needle aspiration" (2023)*
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fine-needle_aspiration (28-07-2023)