

FNA Patient Information

Your doctor has referred you to Anatomic Pathology Service (APS) for a Fine Needle Aspiration (FNA). This is a simple procedure used to collect a small sample of cells from a lump just under the skin.

If your Doctor has not already made the appointment for you, you will need to contact APS, please phone **(09) 639 0212** and inform them you need to make an appointment for an FNA. Please make sure to bring the request form given to you by your doctor to the appointment.

Before You Arrive

- You can drive yourself to and from the appointment.
- Parking: Limited parking is available. When you arrive, please phone (09) 639 0212 and follow instructions given by the secretaries.
- What to Wear: Wear comfortable clothing that allows easy access to the area of the lump.
- Eating & Drinking: You may eat and drink as usual before the appointment.

What to Expect During Your Appointment

- **Medications: Tell the pathologist/cytology registrar if you are taking any blood thinners (e.g. warfarin, aspirin).**
- A pathologist or cytology registrar will talk with you, examine the lump, and then perform the procedure.
- The skin over the lump will be cleaned with alcohol.
- A very fine needle will be inserted through the skin into the lump to collect cells. The needle may be moved slightly to get an adequate sample.
- If not enough cells are collected, the procedure may be repeated up to three times.
- Anaesthetics are usually not needed. However, if required, local anaesthetic can be provided. This may slightly extend your appointment time.

After the Procedure

- Pressure will be applied to the site to reduce bruising. A plaster will be placed and can be removed later the same day.
- The site does not need any special care. Just keep it clean.
- If you experience bleeding, signs of infection, or unusual symptoms, contact your doctor.

Results

- The collected sample is examined under a microscope by two scientists and/or technicians and reviewed by a pathologist.
- The results will be sent to your referring doctor. Please make a follow-up appointment with them to discuss the results.
- Results will not be available at the time of your consultation.

Time

The full consultation, including the procedure, usually takes about 20 minutes, but may vary depending on the complexity.

Fees

There is no charge for the procedure or consultation if you are a New Zealand citizen or resident.

Feedback

We welcome your feedback. If you would like to share comments or suggestions, please contact:

- **Anatomic Pathology Service – Customer Services**

aps.info@adhb.govt.nz

(09) 302 0516

PO Box 14 587, Panmure, Auckland 1741

- **Te Toka Tumai Auckland Consumer Experience**

Email: feedback.auckland@tewhatuora.govt.nz

Phone: 09 375 7048

Post: Consumer Experience Team, Te Whatu Ora

– Te Toka Tumai Auckland, Private Bag 92024, Auckland Mail Centre, Auckland 1142