Bone Marrow Aspiration

Bone marrow aspiration and biopsies are done to diagnose and follow disease status in hematology and oncology patients. These procedures are done in the treatment room or clinic exam/procedure room, and occasionally in the operating room or recovery room. A topical anesthetic cream should be applied to the site (hip) at least 30 minutes before the procedure. IV (intravenous) medication may be used to help your child relax.

Your child will be positioned on his stomach with a small rolled towel placed under his hips. Sometimes, the procedure can be done while a child is lying on his side or on his back. An area over the hipbone is cleansed and covered with a sterile towel. A needle is placed into the hip bone. A small amount of marrow (which looks like blood) is removed with a syringe. If a bone marrow biopsy is being done, a special biopsy needle is placed through the small hole and a small piece of bone is removed. Once the doctor has obtained the needed specimen(s), the needle is removed. Pressure is held to the site for a few minutes. Then a small dressing or Band-Aid® is placed over the site. Any bone marrow specimens are then taken to the lab to be looked at under a microscope.

Home care:

- If bleeding occurs, press down firmly on the site with a clean, dry washcloth or gauze for 5 minutes without interruption.
- Your child may have some mild discomfort at the bone marrow site. Pain medication may be given as directed by your child’s Hematology/Oncology nurse or doctor.
- The Band-Aid® or dressing may be removed after 24 hours. Your child may bathe or shower as usual after the dressing is removed.
- Results from your child’s bone marrow aspiration/biopsy maybe available the next day after 1:00 p.m. Call your child’s Hematology/Oncology Advanced Practice Nurse for the results.

Call your child’s Hematology/Oncology nurse or doctor if:

- Bleeding from the site will not stop after 5 minutes of firm pressure.
- There is any redness, swelling, or drainage at the site.

Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.:
Call your child’s Hematology/Oncology Advanced Practice Nurse at (816) 234-3265.

Monday through Friday after 5 p.m., and on weekends or holidays:
Call (816) 234-3000 and ask the operator to page the Hematology/Oncology nurse or doctor "on-call."