After your CT-guided Lung Biopsy

You had a biopsy done on a nodule in your (right/left) lung on _______________.

Dr. ___________________ performed the biopsy.

What should I expect after the biopsy?
• Soreness at the entry site. You can take Tylenol® or ibuprofen as needed for the next couple of days.
• Coughing up blood-tinged sputum for up to 3 days.
• Bruising at the entry site.

What symptoms should I watch for?
• If the biopsy site will not stop bleeding.
• If you have pain at the biopsy site that is getting worse after 2-3 days.
• If you have a major increase in sputum in the 24 hours after the procedure.
• If you cough up more than a teaspoon of blood.
• If you have a temperature greater than 101° F.

How should I care for myself after I go home?
Rest and do not do any hard activities (i.e. heavy lifting or cardiovascular activity).
You may return to your normal routine after 24 hours. Do not do hard activities for 5-7 days.
• You may eat your normal diet. No alcohol for 24 hours.
• No smoking for the first 24 hours.
• You may remove the bandage and shower the morning after the procedure.
• We do not recommend airplane travel for 2-3 weeks after the procedure.

Phone numbers
For questions or problems during the day, please call our clinic nurse at 608-263-0693.

On weekends or after 5 p.m. call the paging operator at 608-262-0486. Ask for the Senior Radiology Resident on-call. Tell them the name of the doctor who did the procedure. Leave your name and phone number with the area code. A doctor will call you back.

If you live out of the area, call 1-800-323-8942.

When should I call the doctor or nurse?

IMPORTANT
If you have major shortness of breath or can’t seem to catch your breath, you should go to the nearest emergency room right away. Tell them that you recently had a lung biopsy. This can be a symptom of a delayed pneumothorax, (lung collapse). It can be life-threatening. Have them contact us right away if they have any questions.

Results of your biopsy are almost always ready within 48 business hours. This does not include the weekend or holidays. If you have not heard from the doctor that ordered the lung biopsy by that time, call his or her office to ask about the results.
More instructions:

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Your health care team may have given you this information as part of your care. If so, please use it and call if you have any questions. If this information was not given to you as part of your care, please check with your doctor. This is not medical advice. This is not to be used for diagnosis or treatment of any medical condition. Because each person's health needs are different, you should talk with your doctor or others on your health care team when using this information. If you have an emergency, please call 911. Copyright ©8/2017. University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority. All rights reserved. Produced by the Department of Nursing. HF#7215