

Easy B Facts

Liver Biopsy

A liver biopsy is the best way to find out if your liver is healthy or damaged. While a blood test can show if your liver is experiencing damage at the time of a blood test, a liver biopsy shows how a hepatitis B infection has affected your liver over many years and decades.

A biopsy also is the best way to discover if you have other diseases, such as other types of hepatitis or liver conditions.

During a liver biopsy, a needle is inserted into your liver and a tiny sample of tissue is taken. The liver tissue is examined for inflammation (swelling), fibrosis (light scarring) and heavy scarring.

Try not to worry too much about your biopsy because most people only have mild to moderate pain. If you are nervous about the test, ask your doctor for something to help you relax. However, the biopsy is done while you are awake.

Often, an *ultrasound* is also performed to take a picture of the liver and locate the exact point where the needle will be inserted.

The most important goal of the liver biopsy is to accurately measure liver damage caused by your HBV infection

It Is Important to Remember:

- Most people will have mild or moderate pain – that pain may spread to the right shoulder.
- A very small percentage of people, however, have to be hospitalized afterwards due to pain or because another organ was accidentally hit during the test.
- Patients are checked for several hours after a biopsy to make sure there is no internal bleeding.
- Your doctor will advise you what to do before and after the test.
- A friend or a member of the family will have to take you to and from where you have the biopsy done.



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