

Fine Needle Aspiration (FNA) Procedure Information

What is an FNA?

Fine Needle Aspiration (FNA) is a quick and simple procedure used to collect a small sample of cells from a lump or area of concern. The sample is examined to help diagnose or rule out certain conditions.

What to Expect

- A very thin needle is gently inserted to collect the cells
- More than one needle insertion may be needed to get enough cells
- The procedure usually takes only a few minutes
- Most people find it causes minimal discomfort, similar to a blood test

Possible Side Effects

- Mild soreness or bruising at the site
- Rarely, minor bleeding or infection

Ultrasound Guidance

Sometimes, depending on the size or location of the lump, ultrasound guidance may be recommended.

This will be discussed with you at your appointment.

Please note: Pathlab does not provide ultrasound-guided FNA. If this is required, your GP will need to refer you to a radiologist.

Receiving Your Results

- Results are usually available within 1–2 weeks
- They are sent to your referring doctor or specialist, who will discuss the results and next steps with you

Questions?

If you have any questions before your appointment, please contact your GP in the first instance.