



[Home](#) → [Health Topics](#) → Biopsy

URL of this page: <https://medlineplus.gov/biopsy.html>

Biopsy

A biopsy is a procedure that removes cells or tissue from your body. A doctor called a pathologist looks at the cells or tissue under a microscope to check for damage or disease. The pathologist may also do other tests on it.

Biopsies can be done on all parts of the body. In most cases, a biopsy is the only test that can tell for sure if a suspicious area is cancer. But biopsies are performed for many other reasons too.

There are different types of biopsies. A needle biopsy removes tissue with a needle passed through your skin to the site of the problem. Other kinds of biopsies may require surgery.

Start Here

- **Biopsies - Overview** [<https://www.radiologyinfo.org/en/info/biopgen>]
(American College of Radiology; Radiological Society of North America)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.radiologyinfo.org/es/info/biopgen>]
- **Biopsy and Cytology Tests** [<https://www.cancer.org/cancer/diagnosis-staging/tests/biopsy-and-cytology-tests.html>]
(American Cancer Society)
- **Biopsy: Types of Biopsy Procedures Used to Diagnose Cancer** [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/cancer/in-depth/biopsy/ART-20043922?p=1>] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/es/diseases-conditions/cancer/in-depth/biopsy/art-20043922?p=1>]


Specifics

- **Bone Biopsy** [<https://www.radiologyinfo.org/en/info/bonebiopsy>]
(American College of Radiology; Radiological Society of North America)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.radiologyinfo.org/es/info/bonebiopsy>]
- **Bone Marrow Test** [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/bone-marrow-tests/>]  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/prueba-de-la-medula-osea/>]
- **Breast Biopsy** [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/breast-biopsy/>]  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/biopsia-de-seno/>]
- **Colposcopy** [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/colposcopy/>]  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/colposcopia/>]
- **Kidney Biopsy** [<https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/diagnostic-tests/kidney-biopsy>]
 (National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases)
- **Liver Biopsy** [<https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/diagnostic-tests/liver-biopsy>]
 (National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/informacion-de-la-salud/pruebas-diagnosticas/biopsia-higado>]
- **Needle Biopsy** [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/tests-procedures/needle-biopsy/about/pac-20394749?p=1>]
(Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/es/tests-procedures/needle-biopsy/about/pac-20394749?p=1>]

Needle Biopsy of the Lung [<https://www.radiologyinfo.org/en/info/nlungbiop>]

(American College of Radiology; Radiological Society of North America)

Also in Spanish [<https://www.radiologyinfo.org/es/info/nlungbiop>]

- **Sentinel Lymph Node Biopsy** [<https://www.cancer.gov/about-cancer/diagnosis-staging/staging/sentinel-node-biopsy-fact-sheet>]  (National Cancer Institute)

Also in Spanish [<https://www.cancer.gov/espanol/cancer/diagnostico-estadificacion/estadificacion/hoja-informativa-ganglio-centinela>]

- **Skin Biopsy** [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/skin-biopsy/>]  (National Library of Medicine)

Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/biopsia-de-piel/>]

- **Skin Biopsy** [<https://skinsight.com/skin-conditions/skin-biopsy/?lmiw9cApl=1>] (VisualDX)

- **Ultrasound- and MRI-Guided Prostate Biopsy** [<https://www.radiologyinfo.org/en/info/prostate-biopsy>]

(American College of Radiology; Radiological Society of North America)

Also in Spanish [<https://www.radiologyinfo.org/es/info/prostate-biopsy>]

- **Ultrasound-Guided Fine Needle Aspiration Biopsy of the Thyroid** [<https://www.radiologyinfo.org/en/info/ThyroidBiopsy>]

(American College of Radiology; Radiological Society of North America)

Also in Spanish [<https://www.radiologyinfo.org/es/info/ThyroidBiopsy>]

Videos and Tutorials

- **From Biopsy to Diagnosis** [<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sb463cGheVY>]  (College of American Pathologists)

Journal Articles

References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)

- **Article: Retrospective, single center evaluation of transperineal prostate biopsy omitting antibiotic prophylaxis...** [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40537577>]
- **Article: Relevance of muscle biopsies in the neonatal and early infantile period:...** [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/39707553>]
- **Article: Biopsy Proteome Score Performs Well as an Effect Measure in a...** [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/39209203>]
- **Biopsy -- see more articles** [<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=%22Biopsy%22%5Bmajr%3Anoexp%5D+AND+humans%5Bmh%5D+AND+english%5Bla%5D+AND+%22last+2+Years%22+%5Bedat%5D+NOT+%28letter%5Bpt%5D+OR+case+reports%5Bpt%5D+OR+editorial%5Bpt%5D+OR+comment%5Bpt%5D%29>]

Find an Expert

- **American Cancer Society** [<https://www.cancer.org/>]

- **National Cancer Institute** [<https://www.cancer.gov/>] 

Also in Spanish [<https://www.cancer.gov/espanol>]

- **RadiologyInfo** [<https://www.radiologyinfo.org/>] (American College of Radiology; Radiological Society of North America)

Also in Spanish [<https://www.radiologyinfo.org/es>]

Children

- **Biopsies (For Parents)** [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/biopsy.html>] (Nemours Foundation)

Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/biopsy.html>]

- **Liver Biopsy** [<https://gikids.org/tests-procedures/liver-biopsy/>]

(North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition)

Also in Spanish [<https://gikids.org/biopsie-du-foie/?lang=es>]

Patient Handouts

- **Biopsy** [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003416.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)

Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003416.htm>]

Bone marrow biopsy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003934.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)

Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003934.htm>]

- Colposcopy - directed biopsy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003913.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)

Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003913.htm>]

- Gastric tissue biopsy and culture [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003728.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)

Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003728.htm>]

- Lung needle biopsy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003860.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)

Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003860.htm>]



MEDICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA

Abdominal wall fat pad biopsy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003841.htm>]

Biopsy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003416.htm>]

Biopsy - biliary tract [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003894.htm>]

Bladder biopsy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003902.htm>]

Bone lesion biopsy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003923.htm>]

Bone marrow biopsy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003934.htm>]

Breast biopsy - ultrasound [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007432.htm>]

Breast biopsy -- stereotactic [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007433.htm>]

Carpal tunnel biopsy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003925.htm>]

Colposcopy - directed biopsy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003913.htm>]

Cone biopsy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003910.htm>]

Culture - duodenal tissue [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003730.htm>]

Endometrial biopsy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003917.htm>]

Gastric tissue biopsy and culture [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003728.htm>]

Gram stain of tissue biopsy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003453.htm>]

Gum biopsy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003852.htm>]

Kidney biopsy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003907.htm>]

Liver biopsy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003895.htm>]

Lung needle biopsy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003860.htm>]

Lymph node biopsy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003933.htm>]

Mediastinoscopy with biopsy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003864.htm>]

Muscle biopsy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003924.htm>]

Nasal mucosal biopsy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003848.htm>]

Nerve biopsy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003928.htm>]

Open lung biopsy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003861.htm>]

Open pleural biopsy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003863.htm>]

Oropharynx lesion biopsy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003850.htm>]

Pleural needle biopsy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003862.htm>]

Polyp biopsy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003415.htm>]

Rectal biopsy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003891.htm>]

Salivary gland biopsy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003847.htm>]

Skin lesion biopsy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003840.htm>]

Synovial biopsy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003922.htm>]

Testicular biopsy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003908.htm>]

Tongue biopsy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003849.htm>]

Upper airway biopsy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003856.htm>]

Ureteral retrograde brush biopsy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003906.htm>]

Other Languages

Find health information in languages other than English [<https://medlineplus.gov/languages/biopsy.html>] on *Biopsy*

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