



## **Liver Biopsy**

A liver biopsy is a procedure in which a small needle is inserted into the liver to collect a tissue sample. The tissue is then analyzed in a laboratory to help doctors diagnose a variety of disorders and diseases in the liver.

A liver biopsy is most often performed to help identify the cause of:

- Persistent abnormal blood tests of liver function
- Unexplained yellowing of the skin (jaundice)
- An abnormality of the liver found on ultrasound, CT scan, or nuclear scan
- Unexplained enlargement of the liver

### **Is liver biopsy safe?**

In most instances there are no complications in obtaining a liver biopsy. However, internal bleeding may sometimes occur, as well as a leak of bile from the liver or gallbladder.

### **REMINDER:**

*This information is intended only to provide general guidance. It does not provide definitive medical advice. It is very important that you consult your doctor about your specific condition.*