



What You Need to Know About Biopsies for Lung Cancer

What is a biopsy?



A biopsy is the removal of a small amount of tissue from the lungs that is examined in a laboratory under a microscope to determine if cancer is present. Biopsies are frequently recommended for diagnosing lung cancer. That's because the type of cancer, where it is in the lungs, how far it has spread, how quickly it spreads, and any biomarkers give your health-care team important information they need to build an effective treatment plan for your cancer. In certain instances where lung cancer is suspected, your doctor will take additional biopsies to send for special analysis in case you may be a candidate to receive a targeted form of therapy.

How are biopsies done?

There are a variety of ways to collect a tissue sample for a biopsy of the lungs. The choice of biopsy procedure depends on several factors, such as the location of the cancer and the individual's overall health and lung function. The method of biopsying is determined by your health-care provider.



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