

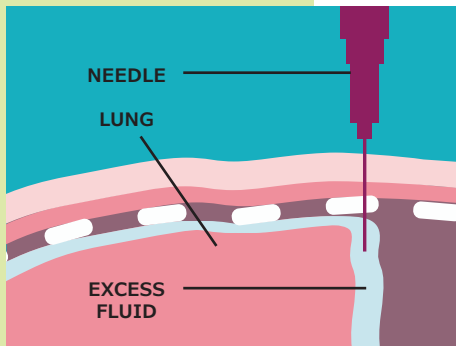
TYPES OF LUNG CANCER BIOPSIES



Thoracentesis

What Is It?

A minimally invasive procedure that removes fluid from the space between the lungs and the chest wall, which is known as the pleural space.



When Is It Used?

Thoracentesis is used when it appears that a patient is producing excess fluid in the pleural space, which can be an indicator of a lung problem, including lung cancer.

What Happens During the Procedure?

Thoracentesis can be conducted in a doctor's office or outpatient clinic. Sometimes the test is conducted in an imaging area since x-rays or an ultrasound is used to help locate the specific area of the chest where the fluid is located. Patients are given a local anesthetic in the chest wall to prevent pain. A long needle is then inserted into the pleural space. The syringe is attached to a vacuum bottle, which draws in fluid from the lungs. The needle is then removed and a bandage is placed on the site. The removed fluid is sent for pathologic and microscopic evaluation. Generally, the procedure takes 10 to 15 minutes.

What's Recovery Like?

No recovery time is required although your doctor may take an x-ray right after the procedure to make sure there are no complications. You may experience some soreness at the biopsy site for 1 to 2 days after the procedure.



Learn More
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