

Learning Series - #9

Making sense of medical terminology - TYPES OF BIOPSIES

2. Frozen section

- Done primarily with oncologic surgery-piece of tissue is removed & sent to pathologist.
- The pathologist then freezes the tissue, then in a matter of minutes will extract a razor-thin slice for review.

4. Incisional

- The doctor cuts into a lesion and a portion of the suspicious tissue is removed.

6. Fine needle aspirate

- A thin needle is inserted into an area of abnormal-appearing tissue or body fluid.

Examples:

1. Thyroid: used to differentiate whether a cold nodule seen on a scan is benign or malignant.
2. Breast: used to differentiate between benign tissue (ie. cystic disease) or cancer.

8. Skin

- Shave: a thin blade razor is used to remove a small (skin) section of the top layers.
- Punch: a circular tool removes a cylindrical, small (skin) section including deeper layers.
- Excisional & incisional.

1. Excisional

- Requires small excision after local/general anesthesia.
- The doctor cuts around the entire lesion - removing it and the surrounding tissue (margins).

3. Lymph node

- Lymph node tissue - "a swollen gland" - is sampled via a small incision after local anesthesia.
- Performed on persistently enlarged or suspicious lymph nodes.
- Useful to look for signs of: chronic infection, an immune disorder, or cancer.

5. Bone marrow

Aspirate: sample of the fluid portion of the bone marrow.

Biopsy: sample of the solid portion of the bone marrow.

Used to diagnose and differentiate:

- Anemias
- Blood cell conditions (leukopenia, leukocytosis, thrombocytopenia, thrombocytosis, pancytopenia, polycythemia)
- Cancers/metastatic cancers of the blood or bone marrow
- Hemochromatosis

7. Cone (conization)

- Also called LEEP.
- A cone-shaped section of abnormal tissue is removed from the cervix after an abnormal pap smear.

9. Core needle

- Single or multiple cores of tissue are sampled with a larger bore needle and are vacuum-extracted to ensure an adequate sample.

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