BIOPSY OF THE SPLEEN

Objective of the procedure
To remove a cell sample from an abdominal mass for purposes of analysis.

Method
You must first go to the Day Medicine Department two (2) hours before the time scheduled for the biopsy in order to have blood tests that are essential for the exam.

Once you arrive in the Ultrasound Department, a technician will position you on your back on the ultrasound bed. It is important that you feel comfortable because you must remain in this position throughout the procedure.

The radiologist will then take several ultrasound images in order to locate the site where the sample will be taken.

The radiologist will disinfect and anesthetize the skin (using xylocain), then will gradually insert a needle into the selected site. During the procedure the radiologist will be guided by means of an ultrasound probe. The technician will be nearby to assist the radiologist and to take any needed images.

When the needle is properly positioned, the radiologist removes the cell sample. This procedure is usually done only once, but it might be repeated if necessary.

Once finished, the technician will bandage the wound and the sample will be sent for analysis.

Preparation before the procedure
If you are allergic to xylocain, advise the medical imagery technician before the procedure.

You must be fasting 4 hours before the time scheduled for the exam.

With the consent of your doctor, stop taking any medication that thins the blood (aspirin, coumadin, etc.) seven (7) days before the procedure.
Recommendations following the procedure

- You must remain lying down on your back or left side for a specific amount of time after the procedure is finished. You will be returned to the Day Medicine Unit.
- The technician will give you an information sheet with post-exam recommendations to be followed.

Duration of the procedure

Varies between 20 and 40 minutes. Plan for a total time of 4 to 6 hours.