

## **Cytopathology Clinic**

### **Fine Needle Aspiration Biopsy (FNA)**

Fine needle aspiration biopsy is a minimally invasive, quick and cost-effective way to get a tissue diagnosis from a lump, enlarged lymph node, swelling and other abnormalities. If your doctor has suggested that you get a FNA, here is some information you may find helpful.

The procedure may be done as an outpatient without any advance preparation. We will examine the area first and be sure that the lump is suitable for this procedure. The details will be explained and any questions you might have will be answered. If we all agree, then the skin over the area will be cleaned and the procedure performed. We generally do not use local anesthetic because it means receiving an additional needle stick and the numbing medicine burns when injected. This usually hurts more than the FNA, but in some instances we do use Lidocaine or a topical freezing spray to numb the area. If the nodule cannot be felt, we can use our ultrasound to see it. We usually do two to three needle sticks with a very thin needle (smaller than used to draw blood). Most people tolerate this very well. The most common after effects are some bruising and tenderness. We will hold some pressure on the spot and then put on a dressing or Band Aid. You do not need to perform any special care of the site afterwards, but if it is tender, an ice pack may be helpful.

By having this biopsy done in the Department of Pathology clinic you may have a same day, walk-in appointment between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Since pathologists are trained to look at the samples under the microscope, we will check before you leave to be sure we have enough tissue to make a diagnosis. The same person will be looking at all the slides the next day and has the advantage of having examined you and understands the question being asked. We will communicate with your doctor to convey the results and answer any questions. Our report will be available in My Chart for you to read.