## Patient and Family Education



## LIVER BIOPSY PROCEDURE EDUCATION

A Liver Biopsy is a test where the doctor uses a needle to remove a small piece of tissue from your liver. The tissue is then sent to the lab to evaluate the condition of the liver. Any pre-tests done outside of UVA should be faxed to 434-244-7542.

- Within 6 months you must have one of the following: Abdominal Ultrasound, MRI or CT. This is done to check the liver for abnormalities before the biopsy. Scheduling of your biopsy can not be done until we have these results.
- Within 12 weeks you must have blood tests including: CBC/Plt and PT/INR. These tests help to determine if you could be at risk for bleeding because of your liver function.
- Within 1 week of your biopsy you should make medicine changes.
  - 1. Stop any Aspirin, Advil, Aleve, Ecotrin, Bufferin, Nuprin, Excedrin and or Ibuprofen for 7 days before the biopsy.
  - 2. If you take Coumadin (Warfarin) or Plavix, contact your doctor and ask if you can stop it 5-7 days before the biopsy. If your doctor says it is unsafe to stop please call 434-243-6346 and tell the Endoscopy Coordinator.
  - 3. If you are diabetic call your regular medical doctor to ask about adjusting the dose of your blood sugar medicine on the day of the biopsy because you will not be following your regular diet on that day.
  - 4. Arrange for a friend or family member to come with you for the biopsy appointment, you will not be able to drive after the appointment.
  - 5. You will not be able to lift more than 5 pounds for 2 days after the biopsy, make plans for this with your employer if needed.

**Day of your biopsy** do not have any solid food or milk products for 6 hours prior to the biopsy. You may drink other fluids until 2 hours before. Please take any blood pressure or heart medicines on the day of your biopsy. Bring a current list of your medicines with you. Please leave all jewelry and piercings at home.

Having a Liver Biopsy requires a great deal of planning and cooperation between you and the medical team. Our requirements are present in order to provide you the safest care. We will need your best effort to keep all scheduled appointments, the timing of tests in relation to the biopsy is important. Rescheduling will result in a delay in your treatment and may cause you to have to repeat other tests if they have expired. Insurance may or may not cover the cost of repeated tests.

