

## PATIENT INFORMATION

# Fine Needle Aspiration

## Why Have an FNA?

It is often not possible for medical imaging to show for certain if an abnormality such as a lump or growth is benign or cancerous. FNAs are an extremely accurate method of determining not only the composition of the abnormality but also its characteristics. This provides your referring doctor with important information when deciding if further treatment is necessary. When performed under ultrasound guidance FNAs can accurately remove a sample from the lump which is sent to pathology for further investigation.

## Who performs the procedure?

Locating the lesion using ultrasound is performed by specialist staff known as a Sonographer. Once the lesion has been located and identified, a specialist radiologist doctor will perform the FNA. The sample taken will then be sent to a pathologist to be examined.

## Is the procedure painful or uncomfortable?

There is usually minimal discomfort felt during an FNA, comparable to that of giving a blood sample. The needle itself is so fine that there is normally no blood spotting or scarring after the sample has been taken. There may be an initially cool feeling when the gel is applied, but other than that there should be no pain or discomfort caused by the ultrasound. Most people are able to continue with their regular daily activities straight after their procedure.

## What does it show?

The results from the pathologist will generally provide a definitive answer to the composition of the lesion.

## Do I need to do any preparation for an FNA?

No. It is advised, however, that you wear loose fitting clothing for your comfort.

## Where can I have this procedure?

You can have an FNA performed at the following X-RAY & IMAGING practices: Caloundra, Kawana, Sippy Downs, Coolum and Cooroy.

## Do I have to book an appointment for an FNA?

Yes. Ultrasound appointments are often booked several days in advance so it is important to book an appointment as soon as possible. Call your closest X-RAY & IMAGING practice to book your appointment.