



## Fine Needle Aspiration Procedure

### Patient Information Brochure

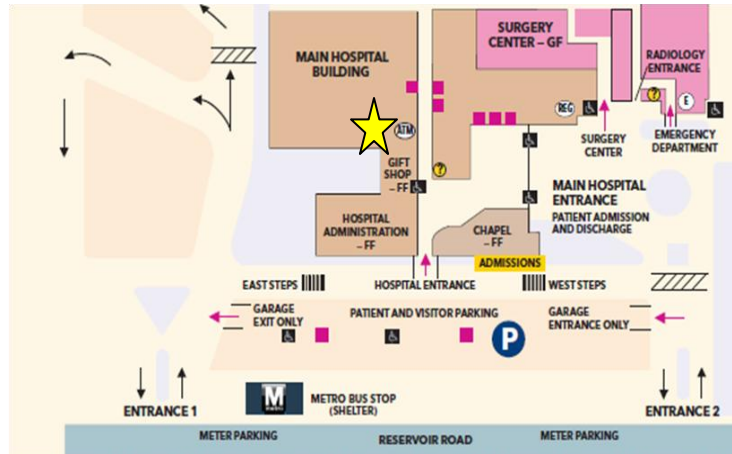
#### *Fine Needle Aspiration Clinic*

Medstar Georgetown University Hospital  
Cytopathology Procedure Room  
Main Lab, First Level Room M1303  
3800 Reservoir Road, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20007

Appointments (202) 784-3614

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\*Yellow star = FNA Clinic\*

**Directions to FNA Clinic:** Use Entrance 2 off Reservoir Road. Follow the entrance to Parking Garage 1. Valet parking is available in front of the Emergency Department. Once you exit the garage, walk into the Main Building. Please walk to the information desk and request for MainLab. Walk down the hallway and turn left to the MainLab.. Once you arrive, notify the receptionist that you are scheduled for a FNA procedure.

*Revised July 2014*



**What is a Fine Needle Aspiration (FNA)?**

Fine Needle Aspiration is a procedure performed by the cytopathologist using a very thin needle (usually a 25 or 23 gauge), which is smaller than the one used to draw blood. The mass or lump to be aspirated is palpated and immobilized. The needle is then inserted into the mass and cells are extracted. The material is then expelled onto a glass slide, and into a special solution for additional smears to be prepared. The needle remains in the mass for about 5 seconds during each needle stick.

The size of the mass determines the number of needle sticks necessary. The lesion is usually aspirated three times to obtain both a representative and an adequate sample. There is no need for anesthesia. The procedure is usually well tolerated, although there may be minor discomfort, which varies from patient to patient.

**How do I schedule an appointment?**

Appointments may be scheduled by calling (202) 784-3614 Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ***Please note that only palpable lesions are aspirated in our Clinic. Nonpalpable lesions are aspirated by the radiologists.*** If you are unable to keep your appointment, please notify us at least 24 hours in advance (202) 784-3614.

**Do I have to preregister?**

A member of the Pathology Department will contact you by phone to obtain your demographics, insurance information, and referring physician information. No other preregistration is required.

**Is parking available?**

There is a parking garage for patients and visitors at Entrance #2 of Reservoir Road. We offer reduced rate parking, so be sure to bring your parking sticker in with you so that it can be stamped.

**Where do I report for my Fine Needle Aspiration procedure?**

The FNA Clinic is located on the first floor (Room M1303) in the Main Building of Medstar Georgetown University Hospital. 3800 Reservoir Road, N.W., Washington, DC 20007. Patients should notify the receptionist in the waiting area.

**Do I need to bring someone with me?**

It is not necessary to bring someone with you. However, if you feel the need to bring someone with you, a waiting area is located near the Clinic for family or friends.

**What time do I have to be there?**

Plan to arrive at the Hospital at least 10 to 15 minutes before your scheduled appointment, to sign consent forms and verify insurance information.

**How long will the FNA procedure last?**

The procedure lasts approximately 30-45 minutes. Occasionally, additional time is necessary. You should expect to be in the hospital for a total of 1 to 1 ½ hours. Please allow yourself the extra time if you are expected to return to work after the procedure.

**Are there any restrictions before the FNA procedure?**

No. You may eat and drink as usual. If you have taken aspirin, or any blood thinner, please inform the cytopathologist. Extra caution may be necessary to avoid bleeding.

**Are there any restrictions after the FNA procedure?**

You may resume your normal activities after the procedure.

**When will the result be available?**

Results are usually available within 24 to 48 hours after the procedure. You should obtain your results from your referring physician.

**Insurance coverage, fees, payments and billing.**

Insurance coverage varies from policy to policy. Read your policy carefully or contact your insurance company's representative to determine which services are covered. You will be responsible for any services your insurance company does not cover or pay. Please bring your insurance card with you the day of your appointment.