

## Biopsy

A biopsy is a procedure in which a pathologist examines a small amount of tumor under a microscope. A biopsy is performed when a diagnosis cannot be made clearly from other tests or scans. A needle biopsy can be taken as part of an open surgical procedure to remove the tumor or as a separate diagnostic procedure. A stereotactic biopsy is like a needle biopsy but is performed with the use of a stereotactic head frame and a computer to precisely locate the tumor and direct the needle. This more complex procedure is used for deep tumors in critical locations.