

BONE MARROW TEST

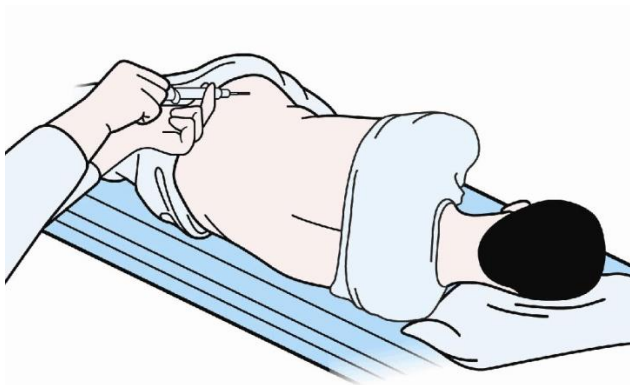
A bone marrow test is usually done to investigate conditions that might affect the bone marrow such as some cancers, lymphomas and myeloma. It may also be necessary in the investigation of certain blood conditions.

Your bone marrow is where your blood cells are made, and taking a sample of bone marrow can give lots of information about the way your blood cells are being made and how they're developing. Bone marrow is found in large bones like the hip bones and the pelvis.

What happens?

Please have only a light breakfast on the morning of the test. The test is not generally carried out under sedation and so you do not need to starve before the test. You will be given a local anaesthetic injection into the hip area.

You lie on your side and the sample is taken from the back of your hip bone. Your skin will be cleaned with antiseptic, and then the doctor will put a needle into your hip and take a sample of bone marrow. You may feel some pressure when this is done but it shouldn't be too painful. The needle is then removed and a water-resistant dressing is applied over the area which can be removed in five days.



Afterwards

There may be some discomfort after the test as the anaesthetic wears off, but you can take Paracetamol as required to help (maximum 8 tablets in 24 hours). Let the doctor or nurse know if the area where the needle was put in becomes red or swollen, or if it bleeds a lot.

The results can take up to six weeks to come back as they are sent off island and an appointment will be given to you when they are available.