



ABN 51 893 971 540

Adelaide Pathology Partners
HISTOPATHOLOGY AND CYTOLOGY

Adelaide Pathology Partners is a South Australian medically owned and operated practice, which was established in 1999. We provide high quality services in histopathology and cytology and are committed to continuing quality improvement, training and an accurate fast turnaround of results.

Adelaide Pathology has a strict privacy policy based around the guidelines provided by the federal privacy commissioner to cover the private health sector. Our policy complies with the national Privacy act 1988

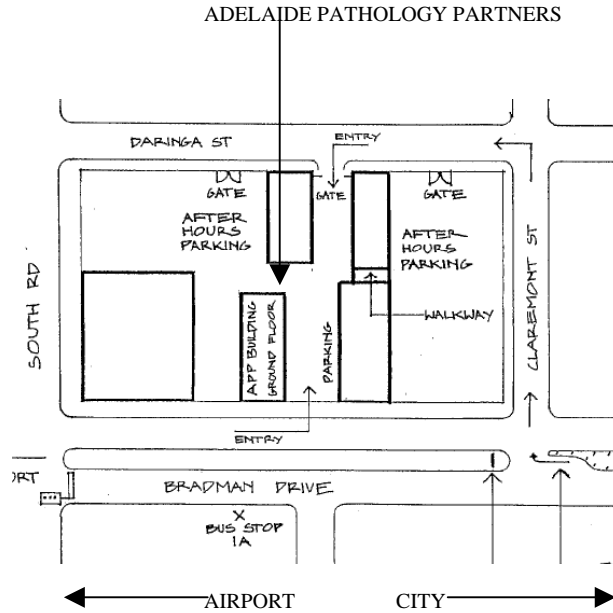
YOUR APPOINTMENT :

TIME

DAY

DATE

HISTOPATHOLOGY AND CYTOLOGY



- Dr Craig James**
- Dr Ronald Sterling**
- Dr Fergus Whitehead**
- Dr Nick Rodgers**
- Dr Steve Pieterse**
- Dr Anna Simpson**
- Dr Jürgen Stahl**

ADELAIDE PATHOLOGY PARTNERS

Ground Floor, Hilton Central
46 Sir Donald Bradman Drive
MILE END SA 5031
Ph: 8238 9800 Fax: 8238 9899
Email: admin@adelaidepath.com.au

HISTOPATHOLOGY AND CYTOLOGY



ABN 51 893 971 540

Adelaide Pathology Partners
HISTOPATHOLOGY AND CYTOLOGY

**FINE NEEDLE
ASPIRATION BIOPSY
(FNAB)**

**Information for Patients
having a fine needle
aspiration performed by
Adelaide Pathology
Partners**

LOCATION MAP ON BACK

HISTOPATHOLOGY AND CYTOLOGY

FINE NEEDLE ASPIRATION BIOPSY (FNAB)

Many lumps (masses) that can be felt or even not felt by you or your doctor are suitable to be investigated by an FNAB

The Biopsy Procedure

Cell samples are obtained by a small needle, which is inserted through sterilized skin. The hollow needle is thinner than those used to collect blood and is only in the lump for a few seconds. Suction may be applied and the retrieved cells are smeared onto glass slides for examination under a microscope.

Who Does the Biopsy?

If you are attending at our practice in Mile End, one of our pathologists will perform the procedure and issue a report to your doctor on the findings. If your procedure is taking place at a radiology practice, in most cases the radiologist will direct the needle and take a sample. This is then given to the pathologist who has travelled from Mile End to attend the procedure, perform the smears and make an on-site evaluation. It is thus determined immediately whether the material is satisfactory for analysis or whether a larger biopsy is required to obtain additional material needed for more specialized testing. The final evaluation of all material is performed back at the Adelaide Pathology Partners Laboratory.

Results of the Biopsy

Most biopsy results are issued to your doctor the day following the procedure, but same day results are available in urgent cases. Any significant results are directly communicated to your doctor and all results are faxed immediately on completion.

Is Local Anaesthetic Used? How Many Needles will I have?

For superficial lumps, local anaesthetic is generally not instilled prior to the test as the injection of anaesthetic is often more painful than the FNAB and may complicate interpretation of the cytology.
For deeper lumps performed under radiologic guidance, local anaesthetic is generally used.
For most solid lumps, two or three passes into the lump are used to obtain enough cells, whilst many fluid filled lumps (cysts) require only one needle to drain the lump. On-site evaluation by a pathologist can help to reduce the number of needle passes necessary.

How Long will the Procedure Take?

Most FNAB procedures performed by a pathologist are completed in 10 – 15 minutes and the biopsy itself takes less than 15 seconds. Procedures performed at radiology practices and requiring guidance to target the needle (ultrasound, mammography, cat scan) are much more variable in the length of time necessary and may take over an hour.

What Should I Bring to the Biopsy?

If you have any x-rays or scans of your lump, please bring them along to your appointment.

Effects of the Biopsy

Sampling of superficial lumps by a pathologist or radiologist is a very safe procedure. The discomfort of the procedure is similar to or less than having a blood test and bruising and infection are uncommon. Decades of experience with FNA Biopsies have shown no harmful effects on the underlying disease causing the lump.
Sampling of deeper lumps under radiological guidance

whilst usually a very safe procedure can have a number of complications depending on the body area sampled. Your radiologist will explain these to you before the procedure has commenced.

After the Biopsy

For superficial lumps, you will be able to drive your car and return to work after the biopsy. For deeper lumps, you may be kept in the radiology department for a few hours for observation and after a lung biopsy, a post procedure chest x-ray is usually performed.

What will be the costs involved?

For cytology testing performed by Adelaide Pathology Partners you may be liable to pay a gap. (see fee insert)
If the procedure is performed at Adelaide Pathology or a radiology practice and you are an outpatient, you will need to pay a gap, unless you hold a current government pension card. If you hold a current healthcare or seniors card, you will have a reduced gap to pay.
For Inpatient cytology procedures performed at a radiology practice, you will only need to pay a gap if you do not have current private health insurance with a health-fund that provides us with a no gap billing contract.
Gaps are incurred to cover the time spent in travelling to radiology practices, on-site evaluations, smears preparation and expertise. Unlike our corporate owned competitors in pathology, all money is retained and re-invested in South Australia.

If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to ask the pathologist or for you guided procedures, the radiologist or other members of staff. We will be happy to provide any additional information you may need.



Adelaide Pathology Partners **HISTOPATHOLOGY AND ASPIRATION CYTOLOGY**

Fee Information

Private Outpatients

Billing for private outpatients is performed after the biopsy is taken and a report has been issued to the radiologist and/or referring doctor. This means you will receive an invoice approximately a week after the biopsy is taken.

When you receive the invoice you have two options

A: Pay the invoice in full within 14 Days to receive a \$10 discount.

B: Fill in the attached Medicare form and send along with the invoice to Medicare. When you receive the cheque from Medicare, sent it, along with the gap payment to the address shown on the reverse of this leaflet.

Accepted methods of payment are: Cash, Cheque/ money-orders, EFTPOS and Bpay.

Private Outpatients who hold a current Pension card will be charged Medical Benefits Only. This means that the Medicare cheque will cover the cost of the whole procedure. If you hold a current Healthcare or seniors card you will be charged the schedule fee, which will result in a reduced gap.

In some cases the procedure may be bulkbilled, in this case you will need to sign the original request from and you will not receive an account. We will seek payment directly from Medicare.

Private Inpatients/ Day Procedures

We have simplified billing agreements with all major private health-funds. This enables us to send invoices directly to the institutions and they pay in full. If you are eligible for simplified billing you will not see an invoice from us. If you are unsure of your eligibility you can check with your private health-fund or our accounts department.

If you are an uninsured inpatient/ or we do not have an agreement with your private health-fund then you are responsible for paying the gap. The current gap for an FNAB Inpatient is \$80.55 after the discount is applied.

Our Current fee for Fine Needle Aspiration Biopsy is:

Outpatient Full charge:	\$211.30
Medicare Portion:	\$154.15
Gap Payable:	\$57.15
Discounted Gap:	\$47.15
Healthcare/ Seniors Card:	\$27.15

If you would like any further information on Adelaide Pathology billing Procedures please contact our accounts department on 8238 9808 or via email accounts@adelaidepath.com.au and we will be happy to assist you with your query.

ADELAIDE PATHOLOGY PARTNERS

**Ground Floor, Hilton Central
46 Sir Donald Bradman Drive
MILE END SA 5031
Ph: 8238 9800 Fax: 8238 9899
Email: admin@adelaidepath.com.au**