

PAEDIATRIC NURSING PRACTICE MANUAL  
SECTION 8

CARE OF THE CHILD WITH A SURGICAL CONDITION

8.4 CARE OF THE CHILD RELATED TO SPECIFIC PROCEDURES

8.4.3 LIVER BIOPSY

**Aims**

1. The child will be nursed so as to prevent known complications of the procedure.
2. Complications will be detected and reported within 30 minutes.

**Key Points**

1. Consent must be obtained for this procedure.<sup>1,2</sup>
2. Ensure results FBP, liver biochemistry (ALT, GGT, Albumin) and coagulation (PT, PTT and platelet count) are available prior to the procedure.

PROCEDURE	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
<p>From the time of transfer to the Recovery Room <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> hourly observations are made for two hours<sup>1-3</sup>. Assess:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conscious state</li> <li>• Pulse<sup>2</sup></li> <li>• Respiratory rate<sup>4</sup></li> <li>• Blood pressure<sup>4</sup></li> <li>• Biopsy site for bleeding</li> <li>• Pain Assessment</li> </ul> <p>Report: Increasing pulse and respiratory rate and decreasing blood pressure.</p>	<p>Commence continuous pulse oximetry if condition deteriorates or if child is uncooperative and difficult to obtain accurate observations<sup>4,5</sup></p> <p>Refer to <a href="#">Acute Pain Assessment</a>.</p> <p>Maintain Intravenous access.</p>
<p>Continue <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> hourly observations for a further four hours.</p> <p>Routine observations to continue pertaining to the condition of the child.</p>	<p>More frequent observations may be required if the child's condition deteriorates</p> <p>The child should be observed for a total of six hours.<sup>1-3,6,7</sup></p>
<p>For the first two hours post biopsy, position the child with his/her right side down.<sup>1,6</sup></p>	<p>In younger children this may be difficult to achieve. Aim to keep child relatively quiet in bed.</p>
<p>Rest the child in bed for six hours.</p> <p>Seek a medical review six hours post procedure with view to discharge.<sup>1,5-7</sup></p>	

PROCEDURE	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Prior to discharge, provide verbal and written discharge information for parents/carers. <sup>7</sup> Refer to <a href="#">Liver Biopsy Health Facts</a> .	

### References:

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7. Weigand K & Weigand K. Percutaneous liver biopsy: retrospective study over 15 years comparing 287 inpatients with 428 outpatients (Level III-3). *J Gastroenterology and Hepatology*.24(5):792-799; 2009.