Brain Biopsy

What is a brain biopsy?
- A brain biopsy is a surgical procedure. During this procedure, a small amount of brain tissue is removed. This tissue will then be sent to the laboratory.
- Before the surgery, your neurosurgeon will discuss exactly what will happen during the surgery. You will also be told the risks and benefits of having the surgery.

How is the biopsy done?
- You will be admitted to the hospital on the day before the biopsy. Some tests, including chest X-ray, blood tests, MRI, and cardiogram (EKG) will be done the night before the surgery.
- A special frame will be put on your head to help guide the surgeon. After the surgery, the frame will be removed.
- During the surgery, family and friends should wait in the surgical waiting room on the third floor of the hospital to be available for any communication from the doctors.
- Most patients are discharged about six hours after the biopsy is completed.
- You will need to have someone drive you home after discharge.

When will I know the results of the biopsy?
- It will take about 3–5 business days to get the results of your biopsy.
- Your surgeon or nurse will call you with the results.
- Based on your biopsy results, you will be advised of a treatment plan.

When should I call my neurosurgeon?
- Fever greater than 101° F
- Redness, swelling, or drainage from the incision
- Any change in level of consciousness (excessive sleepiness or excessive confusion)
- Seizures
- If you do not receive the results of your biopsy within seven days