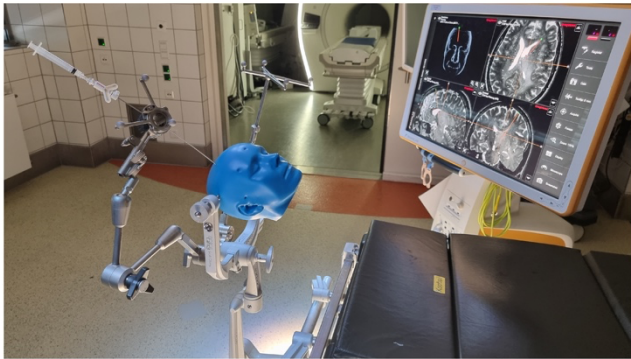


### What is a biopsy of cerebral space occupying lesion?

This procedure is where a small sample or biopsy is taken of a lesion inside your brain. The sample is taken to identify the what the lesion is, which then determines the appropriate treatment for you.

A small cut is made in the skin which allows a small hole to be drilled into the skull beneath the cut. The coverings of the brain will be opened. Computer guidance will be used to specifically target the area of interest. A biopsy needle is passed into the lesion within the brain. Small samples of the lesion are taken and sent to pathology for examination. The cut is closed with stitches and/or staples.



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### Anaesthetic

This procedure will require a general anaesthetic. Please speak to your anaesthetist about the anaesthetic and the risks involved.

### What are the risks of this specific procedure?

There are risks and complications with this procedure. They include but are not limited to the following.

#### Common risks and complications (more than 5%)

- Minor pain, bruising and/or infection from IV cannula site. This may require treatment with antibiotics.
- A pathology result may not be able to be obtained from the sample. This may require further surgery or another biopsy.
- The lesion may not be found due to brain shift. This may require further surgery.

#### Uncommon risks and complications (1-5%) include:

- Infection, requiring antibiotics and further treatment.
- Bleeding can occur and may require a return to the operating room. Bleeding is more common if you have been taking blood thinning drugs.
- Heart attack due to the strain on the heart.
- Fluid leakage from around the brain may occur through the wound after the operation. This may require further surgery.
- Small areas of the lung may collapse, increasing the risk of chest infection. This may need antibiotics and physiotherapy.
- Increase risk in obese people of wound infection, chest infection, heart and lung complications, and thrombosis.
- Blood clot in the leg (DVT)
- Pulmonary embolism (PE)

#### Rare risks and complications (less than 1%)

- Epilepsy which may require medication. This condition may be temporary or permanent.
- Stroke or stroke like complications may occur causing neurological deficits such as weakness in the face, arms and legs. This could be temporary or permanent.
- Injury to the brain, important nerves or blood vessels. This can lead to stroke like complications.
- Death as a result of this procedure is very rare.