

formerly known as OPA-Outpatient Pathology Associates

ASPIRATION BIOPSY SERVICE

RICARDO H. BARDALES, M.D. • ANTHONY R. VICTORIO, M.D.

Location: 7750 College Town Dr.

Sacramento, CA 95826

Clinic: Suite 100

Appointments: 916.454.4500

Business office: Suite 102 General: 916.444.0889 All faxes: 916.444.6016

FINE NEEDLE BIOPSY CONSULTATION SHEET

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A MESSAGE FOR OUR PROSPECTIVE PATIENTS

Once either you or your health care provider feel a lump in your body, important questions arise. This lump can be the result of an unknown injury such as scar tissue, a cyst, an infection, a tumor, and so on. Although many indirect tests such as x-rays and laboratory studies can be helpful, these usually are not sufficient to determine what treatment is needed. Depending upon the exact nature of your lump (i.e., its diagnosis), the treatment possibilities range from doing nothing other than watching the lump or to having it surgically removed.

WHAT IS ABC?

Your health care practitioner has referred you to us for an Aspiration Biopsy Cytology (ABC). ABC is a quick, comfortable, and reliable method of sampling virtually any lump which can be felt, often eliminating the need for surgical biopsy. The biopsy is simple, requiring an appointment of only 10 to 15 minutes. Nevertheless, 25 years of experience indicates that most patients have a question or two regarding the biopsy. For that reason, we have prepared a complete brochure that will be mailed to you when you make your appointment. To make your appointment, call (916) 454-4500 between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on weekdays.

ARE YOU THINKING OF NOT COMING IN?

Although most patients look upon ABC much as they would a blood test, some patients put off scheduling the biopsy, or fail to keep an appointment, for a variety of reasons. These include a fear of needles, or a fear of what the biopsy might find. Rather than risk delay in your diagnosis, we urge you to make and keep your appointment with us. In the meantime, write down your questions so you won't forget them. Then, come in to see us. You have our absolute assurance that we will give you honest, straight answers. We believe you have a right to these answers, and that we have a duty to provide them to you.

If you still do not desire the biopsy after this discussion, we will respect your decision, and you will be free to leave. We will not pressure you into having a biopsy you do not what. Under this circumstance, we do not charge for your visit. Later, if you change your mind, we will gladly reschedule your appointment.

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