3.6 **Liver Biopsy**

**Objectives**

By the end of this section you should know how to:

- Prepare the patient for this nursing procedure;
- Collect and prepare the necessary equipment;
- Assist the medical practitioner to carry out liver biopsy.

**Indications for liver biopsy**

This procedure is carried out to aid diagnosis and staging of a liver disease. Liver biopsy can be performed in various ways including percutaneous, ultrasound guided or transjugular.

**Equipment**

- Sterile gloves
- Sterile dressings pack
- Alcohol-based antiseptic for cleansing the skin
- Local anaesthetic and equipment for its administration
- Sterile disposable scalpel or similar
- Sterile liver biopsy needle e.g. Tru-core needle or Tru-core Automated Gun
- Sterile adhesive dressing
- Sterile specimen contained with preservative, appropriately labelled and with completed laboratory form and plastic specimen bag for transportation
- Dry sterile specimen container
- Antiseptic spray
- Trolley for equipment
- Receptacle for soiled disposables

**Procedure**

- Perform hand hygiene;
- Collect and prepare equipment;
- Explain the procedure to the patient and obtain consent and co-operation;
- Ensure patient’s privacy;
- Follow procedure for Administration of Medicines up to “Check patient’s identity”;
- If prescribed, administer sedation to patient;
- Perform hand hygiene;
- Help the patient into position, prone with right arm behind head;
- Open dressing packs, ensuring sterile technique throughout the procedure;
- Assist the medical practitioner as necessary during the procedure;
- Observe the patients throughout this activity;
- Dispose of the equipment as per Division policy;
- Perform hand hygiene;
- Document the administration of the drug, if prescribed;
- Despatch the labelled specimen to the laboratory, complete with the completed laboratory form;
Aftercare

- Position patient prone for one hour, remaining flat then on either side for a further hour;
- Assess pain hourly, and administer analgesia as prescribed, documenting administration of drugs as necessary;
- For the first two hours measure Blood Pressure and Pulse quarter hourly, thereafter half hourly for a further two hours;
- Monitor for after effects and report any abnormalities immediately.

REFERENCES: