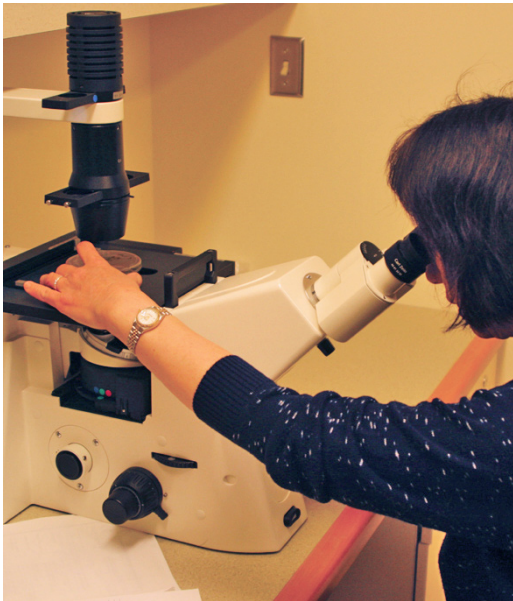


# Waiting for Your Pathology Report



Waiting for your pathology report can be very hard and you may feel many different emotions. Understanding why the results take time can lower the stress in your life. This information sheet will help you understand why it takes time to receive your results.

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## What is a pathology report?

A pathology report is a written report with information about the tissue removed during a procedure. A biopsy is done to remove a small sample of tissue, by needle or surgery. The sample is looked at under a microscope by a pathologist.

Your pathology report will tell you if cells are:

- Benign - not cancer
- Precancerous - cells may become cancer
- Malignant - cancerous

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## Why do I have to wait?

Tissue samples are processed quickly to provide accurate results. Once all information has been collected, the report is sent to your doctor. Samples may be sent to another laboratory if more testing is needed. This will add to the time.

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## How do I get my results?

Your surgeon or family doctor is the only person who can inform you of the pathology results. They will contact you when your results are ready. If you have been waiting longer than 3-4 weeks, you can contact your surgeon or family doctor.

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## What is described in my pathology report?

The following information must be collected before your pathology report is released:

- Specimen: This describes where the tissue sample came from.
- Gross description: This describes the tissue size, weight and colour.
- Microscopic description: This describes the way the tissue sample looks under a microscope.
- Special tests or markers: This describes whether or not the cancer cells have certain characteristics that help classify the tumor.
- Final diagnosis: This describes important findings in the tissue sample. The report will tell you if you have lung cancer or not. If you have lung cancer the final diagnosis will tell you what type of cancer you have. The different types of lung cancer include:
  - o Non - small cell lung carcinoma (NSCLC)
  - o Small cell lung carcinoma (SCLC)

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## Is it normal to feel anxious or worried?

Waiting for your pathology results can be difficult. If you are having difficulty eating, sleeping or with everyday activities, there are professionals who can help support you during this difficult time. Contact Supportive Care Services, 807-684-7310 or toll free: 1-877-696-7223.

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## What happens after I receive my results?

After you have received the results, your doctor will tell you about your treatment options. If your results are normal, your doctor will recommend what type of follow up is required. If the results show that you do have lung cancer, your treatment options will depend on the type of cancer you have been diagnosed with.

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## What questions should I ask my doctor or surgeon if I have lung cancer?

Here are questions you may want to ask your doctor or surgeon:

- Has the cancer spread into any lymph nodes?
- How can the type of cancer be treated?
- Is there any other surgery that is recommended based on these results?

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## For more information about pathology reports, visit:

[www.lungcancer.org](http://www.lungcancer.org)  
[www.mayoclinic.com](http://www.mayoclinic.com)

