Rectal Suction Biopsy

Special Instructions: ____________________________________________________________

What is a rectal suction biopsy?
The rectum is the lowest part of the gut. In this test, a small piece of the lining of the rectum (tissue) is taken off. Then this tissue is looked at very closely under a microscope (biopsy), to see if it is normal. This suction biopsy is done using a tube the size of a rectal thermometer.

Getting ready:
• This test feels like having a rectal temperature taken.
• If your child is old enough to understand, explain to your child what will happen. Do this when you think the time is right. Children do best when they are told what they will see, feel and hear during the test.
• If your child takes any medicines, tell the nurse. You may have to give the medicine earlier or later than usual.
• If your child has a cold or a fever on the day of the test, call the doctor. The test may need to be done another day.
• The doctor or nurse may give you special instructions to prepare your child for the test.
Before the test:
• Check in at the desk: (date) __________________ (time) __________________
• Your child will be taken to a place to get ready for the test.
• A nurse will ask you some questions about your child.
• The nurse will take your child’s heart rate, temperature and blood pressure.
• The doctor and the nurse will give you a chance to ask questions about the test.
• The doctor will ask you to sign a consent form. This means you will let the doctor do the test on your child.
• You and your child will be taken to the room where the test will be done.

During the test:
• The doctor and nurses will wear gowns and gloves during the test.
• Your child will lie on his or her side.
• This test feels like having a rectal temperature taken. Your child may feel a little stretching when the tube is put in the rectum.
• The suction tube is about the size of a rectal thermometer. The doctor will put a bit of jelly (lubricant) on the tube, and will put it gently into your child’s rectum.
• A small piece of the lining of the rectum (tissue) is taken out.
• Several biopsies may be taken.

After the test:
• The doctor will tell you how the test went.
• The nurse will watch your child. The nurse will take your child to another place, and check your child’s heart rate and blood pressure. The nurse will tell you when your child is ready to go home.
• The nurse will tell you what to do at home, after the test. If you have any questions, ask the nurse.
• Your child may have a little blood in his or her stool for the next few bowel movements. This is normal.

If there is a lot of blood, or if your child has a fever or severe pain, or if you are concerned, call your child’s doctor.
Follow-up:
• The tissue will be taken to a lab.
• The doctor should have the test results in two or three working days.

Now that you’ve read this:
☐ Tell your child’s nurse or doctor how you will get your child ready for the test.  
   (Check when done.)

If you have any questions or concerns,
☐ call your child’s doctor or  ☐ call ______________________

If you want to know more about child health and illness,
visit our library at The Emily Center at Phoenix Children’s Hospital:
1919 East Thomas Road
Phoenix, AZ 85016
602-546-1400
www.phoenixchildrens.com

Disclaimer
The information provided at this site is intended to be general information, and is provided for educational purposes only. It is not intended to take the place of examination, treatment, or consultation with a physician. Phoenix Children’s Hospital urges you to contact your physician with any questions you may have about a medical condition.
Family Review of Handout

Health care providers: Please teach families with this handout.
Families: Please let us know what you think of this handout.

Would you say this handout is hard to read?  ☐ Yes  ☐ No

Would you say this handout is easy to read?  ☐ Yes  ☐ No

Please circle the parts of the handout that were hard to understand.

Would you say this handout is interesting to read?  ☐ Yes  ☐ No

Why or why not?

Would you do anything differently after reading this handout?  ☐ Yes  ☐ No

If yes, what?

After reading this handout, do you have any questions about the subject?  ☐ Yes  ☐ No

If yes, what?
Is there anything you don’t like about the drawings?  
☐ Yes  ☐ No

If yes, what?

What changes would you make in this handout to make it better or easier to understand?

Please return your review of this handout to your nurse or doctor or send it to the address below.

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Thank you for helping us!