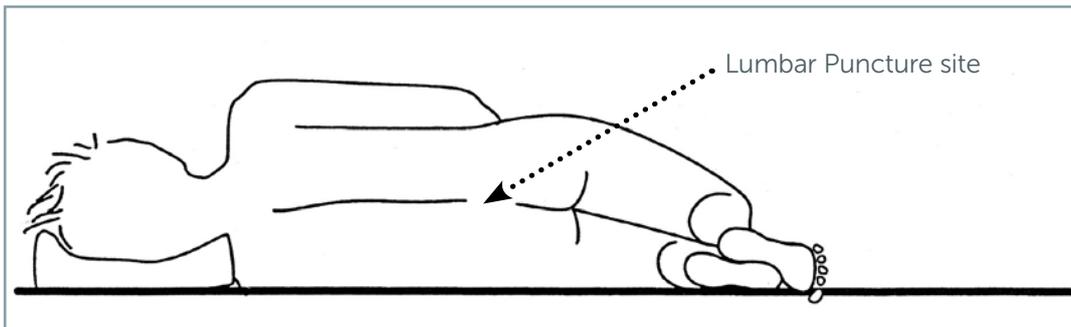


Lumbar Puncture (LP) and Bone Marrow (BM) tests

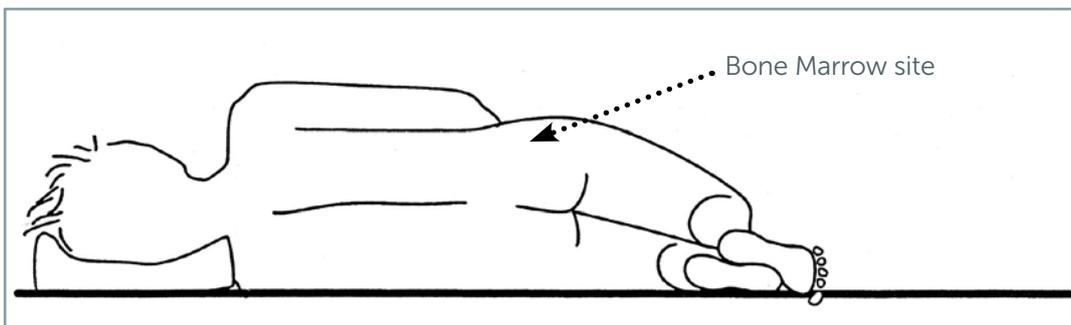
If your child has leukaemia or lymphoma, part of their treatment will be regular lumbar punctures and bone marrow tests. These are carried out under general anaesthetic.

A lumbar puncture is performed by putting a needle into the spine and withdrawing some fluid known as cerebrospinal fluid (CSF). CSF naturally surrounds the brain and spinal cord. A lumbar puncture is carried out to see whether any abnormal cells have gone into the CSF. Chemotherapy drugs can be given into the CSF through the lumbar puncture needle.



It is best for children to lie flat for at least one hour following their LP if possible. This helps to distribute the chemotherapy and reduces the risk of headache and nausea.

A bone marrow test involves putting a needle into the hip bone and withdrawing some of the bone marrow. This will be tested to find out if there are any abnormal cells there. Blood cells are made in the bone marrow, which is the sponge material in the middle of our bones. The hip bone (pelvis) is a very important bone for producing a lot of blood cells.



After the procedure, the bone marrow site on your child's hip may have a piece of gauze and tape covering it. This should be removed later the same day. If the area looks red, swollen or inflamed at any time please contact your hospital.

Both tests are usually done under general anaesthetic; therefore the following instructions should be followed.

Fasting instructions for morning operations

Please bring your child to the ward for 8am before the theatre list starts to allow time to sign the consent form and be examined by the anaesthetist and surgeon.

Children under one year of age

1. Children who have formula feeds and solid food should fast from 2.30am.
2. Children who are breast fed only should fast from 4.30am.

Children over one year of age

1. Children should have a bedtime snack but should not eat after 12 midnight.
2. An early morning drink of sugary squash should be given at 7am. This does NOT include milk, fresh fruit juice or fizzy drinks. Please ensure that you are NOT giving sugar free squash. This is to help maintain your child's blood sugar level whilst they are nil by mouth.

If you are unsure about any of the above instructions please phone Piam Brown day care ward between 8am and 5.30pm, Monday to Friday.