



Outpatient Clinic for Fine Needle Aspiration

Online appointment booking via OneDoc or telephone pre-registration at: +41 44 269 99 41

Appointments only with a referral letter from a doctor/hospital: fnp@patho.ch

Aspiration Hours

Monday to Friday: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Office Hours

Monday to Friday: 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM



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Fine needle aspiration
To investigate unclear swelling
or lump formation

Puncture Clinic

At our in-house FNA Clinic at Rämistrasse 42 in Zurich, we perform ultrasound-guided fine needle aspirations (FNA) on the following organs:

- Breast
- Thyroid gland
- Lymph nodes
- Salivary gland
- Soft tissue tumors
- Skin/mucous membrane lesions

You have been referred to us by your doctor for a fine needle aspiration (FNA) or an ultrasound examination. Fine needle aspiration is a diagnostic procedure that can quickly and easily clarify the nature of an unclear swelling, lump, or organ enlargement.

First, an ultrasound examination is performed to assess the change, and the findings and procedure will be then discussed with you.

Fine needle aspiration is comparable to a blood draw. Using a very fine needle (usually 0.55 mm in diameter) cells and small cell clusters are extracted from the visible abnormality, which are then examined and classified under the microscope. The result of the fine needle aspiration is usually reported to the referring physician within 1 to 3 days.

Subjective symptoms

In most cases, you will feel the needle prick, followed by a burning and/or pulling sensation. During the procedure, the needle (hollow needle) is moved up and down in the lesion for approx. 10–20 seconds in order to fill it with material under suction. Generally this examination is associated with little pain. FNA's in the head/neck area may cause slight radiating pain, e.g., in the chin or ears, which may persist for a short time after the procedure.

Occasionally a small bruise may form at the puncture site, which usually resolves within a few days. The risk of infection is low. The theoretical risk of spreading any possible cancer cells is negligible.

