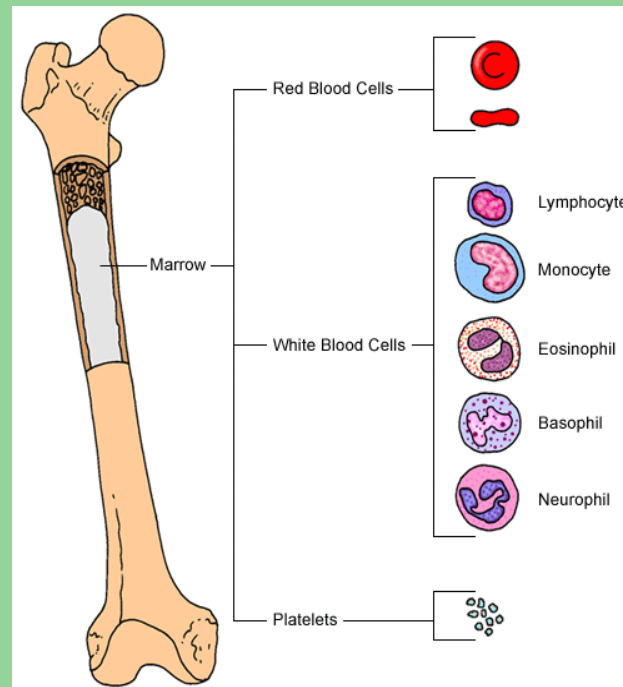


What is a Bone Marrow Aspiration?

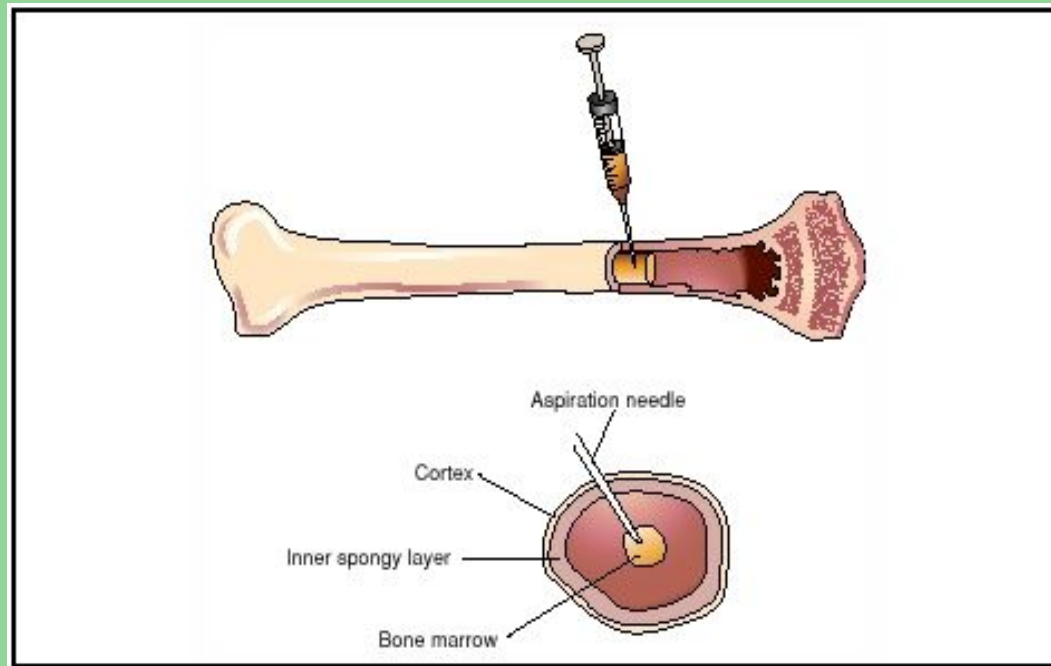
Let's find out!

Scroll down to learn more about your bone marrow aspiration

You have special fluid in your bones called bone marrow that helps make your blood cells. Sometimes doctors need to know if your bone marrow is healthy and working the way it is supposed to. To check your bone marrow your doctors may need to do a bone marrow aspiration.



A bone marrow aspiration means that your doctor will put a special needle into your hip bones and take some bone marrow fluid from your bone for tests.





The doctors may give you some sleepy medicine to make you sleep during your procedure. To get the sleepy medicine the nurse may need to start an IV (unless you have a central line already.) Before the doctor gives you your special medicine, make sure to ask if you can pick out a band aid. The doctor will put the band aid on your hip where they took the bone marrow from. When they are finished the doctor will stop giving you the medicine so you will wake up!

The doctors need to make sure your heart is beating correctly while they are giving you the special medicine so you will have to put some special stickers, called EKG stickers, on your chest. One will go by your right shoulder, one will go by your left shoulder and the last one will go down by your belly button (or on your tickle spot). These stickers will show how your heart is working.



You will also have to wear a cool red light on your finger. This is called a pulse oximeter. A pulse oximeter measures how well you are breathing while the doctor is giving you your special medicine. Even though it looks like the light will pinch your finger it doesn't hurt at all! You can even have mom or dad try it first.



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When your stickers and red light are on the doctor will give you your sleepy medicine. The medicine will be in a syringe and looks white like milk. If you have a central line you won't be able to feel the sleepy medicine. But if you have an IV in your arm, hand, or foot it may make you feel really warm. Taking deep breaths might help this funny feeling go away. Most children fall asleep before they can count to 5!



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When you wake up, you will have a band-aid on your hip. This may feel a little sore, like your brother or sister hit you really hard in the back. Don't worry though, that will go away in a little while.



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To learn more visit the website below. This website provides an interactive program to help you learn more about bone marrow aspirations.

<http://bonemarrow.starlightprograms.org/index.html>



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MINISTRY HEALTH CARE

MARSHFIELD, WISCONSIN

**Created by Lindsey Lohmiller
Child Life Intern
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