Transjugular liver biopsy

A transjugular liver biopsy using x-ray and ultrasound involves placing a special catheter into the internal jugular vein in your neck. This vein is connected to the veins in your liver, where the transjugular biopsy can be done. And, pressure in the main portal vein to the liver can be measured there. The results of this procedure will give your doctors information about your illness and help them plan your treatment. The procedure will be performed by an interventional radiologist, a doctor specially trained for this type of radiology procedure. This procedure is minimally invasive, because your doctor will use a small, spaghetti-like tube called a catheter to do the biopsy. This procedure is not a type of surgery, and this type of biopsy reduces your risk of bleeding. Transjugular liver biopsy is a safe procedure, but as with any medical procedure there are some risks and complications that can arise. The overall risk of a problem requiring further treatment is low (1–2%). The main risk is bleeding after the biopsy. However, a transjugular liver biopsy has a lower risk of bleeding than a conventional liver biopsy taken through the side of the abdomen.