Bone Marrow Aspiration

Bone marrow studies are used to diagnose aplastic anemia, leukemias, and other cancers. A sample of bone marrow is obtained by inserting a needle or biopsy instrument into a bone (usually the posterior iliac crest or sternum).

**Before the Procedure**
- Verify signed consent for the procedure has been obtained.
- Explain the purpose and procedure of the test.
- Record vital signs. Have the client void.
- Place in supine position if sternum or anterior iliac crest will be used, in prone position if posterior iliac crest is to be used.

**After the Procedure**
- Apply pressure to the puncture site for 5 to 10 minutes.
- Assess vital signs; report changes from baseline.
- Apply dressing to puncture site. Monitor for bleeding and infection.

**Client and Family Teaching**
- The procedure takes about 20 minutes.
- A local anesthetic will be used; you will feel some pain during insertion. Take deep breaths to help relieve pain during this time.
- It is important to remain very still during the procedure.
- The site of the aspiration may ache for several days.
- Report any unusual bleeding, drainage, or symptoms of infection immediately.