

12. Article Title: “The Spectrum of Biopsy Sites for the Diagnosis of Sarcoidosis”

Lead Author: Alvin Teirstein, MD

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The 736 sarcoidosis patients who participated in ACCESS were required to have biopsy proof of sarcoidosis within 6 months of entering the study. This large group of patients gives the

ACCESS investigators the chance to understand the variety of organs with sarcoidosis involvement at the time of diagnosis, and those most often biopsied by doctors.

There were 776 diagnostic biopsies performed in the 736 patients (some had more than one). The ACCESS sarcoidosis patients had a total of 23 different organs biopsied to diagnose their sarcoidosis. Since most patients with sarcoidosis have abnormal chest x-rays, it is not surprising that the most common biopsies were of the lungs, followed by lymph nodes (inside and outside the chest), and skin (see table). Skin and swollen lymph nodes outside of the chest are easier to biopsy than other sites for both the patient and doctor and are often the favored biopsy, even if the chest x-ray is abnormal. The diagnosis of sarcoidosis is most definite when proven by a biopsy.

<b>Biopsy Site</b>	<b>Number of Biopsies</b>
<b>INTRATHORACIC</b> (within the chest)	
Lung	329
Lymph Node	181
Trachea/Bronchi	57
<b>EXTRATHORACIC</b> (outside of the chest)	
Skin	74
Lymph Node	61
Liver	19
Kveim Site	11
Other	44
<b>Total</b> (including multiple biopsies)	776