

Ultrasound Guided Core Breast Biopsy

What is this?

An ultrasound –guided core biopsy is a procedure that uses ultrasound (sound waves) to locate a specific area of interest in the breast so that tissue samples can be removed for testing through a small needle.

What are the risks of a core breast biopsy?

Occasionally, patients may have some soreness and bruising. This can be controlled by non-prescription medications such as Tylenol or Extra-Strength Tylenol and using ice compresses following the biopsy. More significant bleeding is uncommon.

If you are on any prescription anticoagulant (blood thinning) medications we usually ask that you avoid those products prior to the biopsy. Please alert the Radiology Nurse Practitioner if you are on any of these medications so that we can coordinate with your physician.

If you have any allergies to medications or medical supplies please alert the Biopsy Scheduler to those as well please.

What should I do to prepare for the breast biopsy?

Wear comfortable clothing and wear or bring a well supportive bra.

You may eat a light meal prior to arrival. Plan to spend around 2 hours at the Breast Center for your biopsy appointment.

Please do not wear any perfumes or powders on the day of your biopsy. You may wear deodorant.

Please alert the Radiology Nurse Practitioner if you take any prescription anticoagulant (blood thinning) medications. We will coordinate with your doctor and give you special instructions regarding this medication.

What will the procedure be like?

A radiologist specialized in breast imaging will perform your biopsy. You will be awake and lying on the table on your back or side. The radiologist will use ultrasound to find the area of concern and then clean the skin with chloroprep. You will receive numbing medicine at the biopsy site. A small nick will be made in the skin to insert the biopsy device and multiple tissue samples will be taken. After completion, the skin nick will be closed with small tapes called steri-strips. No stitches are required. You will be given your post biopsy instructions and often a mammogram is done just following the biopsy. An ice pack bandage will then be applied.

How will I feel after the biopsy?

Most women feel fine after a breast biopsy. You may feel some soreness after the numbing medication wears off. You will be instructed to take some Tylenol for soreness and use ice packs to minimize swelling and discomfort. It is not necessary to bring anyone with you and many women go back to work afterwards. You should not lift anything heavier than a gallon of milk, jog or run, or any activity that would place a strain on the breast for 2-3 days, especially activity that affects the side of the biopsy.

Your results are usually available within 2-4 working days following the biopsy.

****If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call our office.**

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