

MRI Guided Core Biopsy

What is this?

An MRI guided biopsy is a procedure that uses magnetic imaging to guide the radiologist to a specific area within the breast so that tissue samples may be taken with a biopsy needle. It is used for targeting areas not seen on a mammogram or breast ultrasound.

What are the risks?

Occasionally, patients may have some soreness and bruising. This can be controlled by non-prescription medication 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 allergies to any medications or medical supplies, please alert the Biopsy Scheduler to those as well.

What should I do to prepare for the breast biopsy?

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

You may eat a light meal prior to your 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. An IV will be started prior to the MRI. You will lie on your stomach on the table within the MRI suite in a similar position as when your MRI was performed. Your breast will be compressed and multiple images will be taken to determine the correct location to place the biopsy device. Contrast will be given through your IV, just like during your original MRI. Your skin will be cleansed and you will receive numbing medication.

A biopsy tool will be inserted into the breast and multiple tissue samples will be taken. A tissue marker will be placed at the site to mark the area that is being biopsied. Steri-strips will be applied to the small opening in the skin and post instructions will be given. A mammogram is performed after the biopsy and an ice pack bandage will 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 Tylenol or Extra-Strength Tylenol for soreness and use ice packs to minimize swelling and discomfort. 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.**

Vanderbilt Breast Center at One Hundred Oaks
Main number 322-2064
Biopsy Scheduler 322-1949
Radiology Nurse Practitioner 322-1912