

Taking a sample of your breast using x-ray imaging

Breast Imaging

Information for Patients

Produced: February 2021

Review: February 2024

Leaflet number: 1138 Version: 3

Introduction

If an abnormal area in your breast is found following a mammogram or ultrasound scan, you may need to have more tests to find out what this is.

This is done by taking a sample (biopsy) of the abnormal breast tissue so it can be looked at under a microscope. There are several types of breast biopsy procedures. The type of biopsy that you will have, will depend on the location and size of the lump or area of concern.

If the abnormal area in the breast cannot be seen on an ultrasound scan or cannot be felt in a physical exam then x-ray (mammography) is used to find the area for the biopsy.

This biopsy procedure will take up to 1 hour and you may eat and drink as normal before it.

We hope this leaflet will answer some of the questions that you may have.

What are the benefits of a biopsy with x-ray?

It is less invasive than having a surgical biopsy. It leaves little to no scarring and can be used to find very small abnormal areas and is extremely accurate at locating these.

The results from this biopsy can show whether there is a cancer or another condition which may need treatment. A large number of abnormalities turn out to be non-cancerous (benign), with no risk to your health.

**Health information and support is available at www.nhs.uk
or call 111 for non-emergency medical advice**

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To give feedback about this information sheet, contact InformationForPatients@uhl-tr.nhs.uk

Are there any risks?

- Bruising: about 1 in 10 patients have bruising after a biopsy, a member of staff will press firmly on the site after the biopsy to minimise any bruising.
- Pain: the area being biopsied is made numb with local anaesthetic. It is normal to feel pressure and movement during the procedure but not pain. As the local anaesthetic wears off (over a few hours) if pain is felt then we recommend paracetamol.
- Bleeding: Some bleeding is expected with the biopsy however a risk of more severe bleeding occurs in 1 in 100 patients, this is a low risk. A member of staff firmly presses the area after the biopsy to stop any bleeding that may occur.
- Infection: Any procedure where the skin is broken carries a risk of infection, the associated risk with this procedure is 1 in 10,000 patients, this is an extremely low risk. Every effort is made to keep this risk to a minimum during the procedure.

How is the procedure done?

The procedure is done whilst you are sitting or lying down. You will be made as comfortable as possible for this procedure and it is extremely important to keep as still as possible whilst it is being done.

Your breast will be compressed in the mammogram machine. Images of the breast are then taken and the computer then works out exactly where the abnormal area is. Once the area is found the biopsy equipment is setup and the area is made numb with local anaesthetic and cleaned thoroughly. Once the biopsy needle is inserted into the area the samples of tissue are taken. The biopsy needle makes a clicking sound and several samples may be taken.

The samples are sent to the laboratory to be looked at under a microscope.

Having a marker inserted in your breast during the procedure

Sometimes, a small metal clip (or marker) is placed in the breast where the biopsy was taken from. This is so the area can be found again if a further biopsy or surgery is needed.

This marker is made of titanium and will not cause you any problems. It will not set off airport security alarms and is safe if you have an MRI scan in the future. It can stay in your breast forever without you being aware of it.

Care after your biopsy

When the sample has been taken a member of staff will press your breast firmly for about 5 to 10 minutes until any bleeding stops. They will then put a dressing on.

Please leave the dressing in place and dry for 24 hours and do not do any tiring activity, exercise or heavy lifting for the rest of the day. Other than this you can carry on with your usual routine.

You will be able to drive the same day.

If you have any bleeding from the biopsy site apply firm pressure over the dressing for 10 to 15 minutes. If Steri-Strips have been used, leave them to come off by themselves.

When will I get the results of the biopsy?

Before you leave we will give you a follow-up appointment for your results. This will normally be within 2 weeks.

However, if the results are not ready, we may have to contact you to rearrange your appointment at short notice.

Contact details

If you have any questions, please contact the nurses at the Breast Care Centre on **0116 250 2513**:

- Monday to Thursday 9am to 4.30pm
- Friday 9am to 4pm.

An answerphone service is available on this number, but messages are only listened to during working hours.

If you need advice outside of these hours please contact:

- your on-call GP.
- NHS helpline on 111 (24 hours).
- Ward 24, Leicester Royal Infirmary (Monday to Friday, 24 hours) 0116 250 2490.
- Surgical Admissions Unit (weekends and Bank Holidays) 0116 258 5332.

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی اور زبان میں درکار ہیں، تو براہ کرم مندرجہ ذیل نمبر پر ٹیلی فون کریں۔
على هذه المعلومات بلغةٍ أخرى، الرجاء الاتصال على رقم الهاتف الذي يظهر في الأسفل

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