

You are having an ultrasound-guided core biopsy



Why do I need this done?

Your mammogram or ultrasound has highlighted an area in your breast that needs further investigation, and more tests are necessary. If abnormal tissue is found, an operation maybe necessary. Before you have this procedure, please tell the doctor if you have any:

- allergies
- blood clotting problems/are taking anticoagulants

What is an ultrasound?

An ultrasound is a way of producing a picture of the inside of your breast using sound waves. It is commonly used in pregnancy.

What is a core biopsy?

A small tissue sample is removed with a needle. This tissue is then examined by a pathologist.

How is this done?

1. We will ask you to lie on a couch in a comfortable position, as you did for your ultrasound examination.
2. Using ultrasound, we identify the area of concern in your breast.
3. We will inject a local anaesthetic into the area to numb the surrounding skin and tissues. This may sting at first.
4. Once the area is numb, we will make a small cut in your skin and insert a biopsy needle to take several samples of tissue. The needle will make a loud clicking noise but you should feel no pain. Before you have this procedure, we will demonstrate the noise the needle makes so it doesn't surprise you. It is very important you keep still for the sampling procedure.
5. Sometimes a tiny metallic clip is placed in your breast. This acts as a marker if the area needs to be found again.
6. When we withdraw the needle from your breast we will press on the area for a short time. Tiny adhesive strips are then placed on the wound with a small dressing.

After the procedure, will I have any pain?

You may feel some discomfort. If so, you can take simple painkillers which you would normally take for a headache (not aspirin).

You may find it more comfortable to wear a soft bra during the day and at night until any discomfort settles.

Are there any risks or complications?

- You will probably develop some bruising but usually this doesn't cause a problem and settles on its own.
- There is a small risk of an allergic reaction to the local anaesthetic.
- Infection is unlikely.
- Very rarely, a small amount of air may enter your chest. If this occurs, the doctor will explain any treatment which may be necessary.

What about the dressing?

Keep the steristrips and semi waterproof dressing on for 5 days. Bath and shower as usual but try not to get it too wet. If the dressing comes off, keep the area clean and dry.

When do I get my results?

The doctor or nurse will discuss your results with you when they become available. This is usually within 7-10 days.

Contact us

If you have any questions, please contact the Breast Care Nurse on 01872 252880.

For further information, contact the Breast Care Nurse or log on to www.breastcancercare.org.uk or www.cancerbackup.org.uk

If you would like this leaflet in large print, braille, audio version or in another language, please contact the General Office on 01872 252690

