

Your excision breast biopsy

Why do I need an excision breast biopsy?

You need a breast biopsy so that an accurate diagnosis can be made. This is usually done because previous biopsies have given insufficient information. Sometimes the area that needs biopsy is so small that a biopsy will remove it completely.

How is a biopsy done?

You will be given a general anaesthetic. A small incision (cut) is made in your breast and the area of concern is removed.

Are there any alternatives?

There are no alternatives to this diagnostic procedure, except to do nothing.

How long will I be in hospital?

This is usually a day case so we would expect you to go home the same day.

Can I wear a bra afterwards?

Wearing a bra may be of benefit especially if the breast is uncomfortable and swollen. Wearing a bra at night for a couple of weeks may also be beneficial in giving support.

Are there any risks or complications?

Bruising may occur within your breast 2-3 days after your biopsy. This is usual, and will subside over the next 3-4 weeks.

When will I get my results?

The breast tissue removed takes around 10-12 days to be processed in the laboratory. You will be offered an appointment around two weeks after your surgery and your doctor will discuss your results with you then.

When will my dressings be removed?

Any stitches or dressings will be removed 12-14 days after surgery at the Mermaid Centre. Please keep your dressings dry until your appointment. Stitches are seldom used - steristrips are used instead.

When can I resume normal activities?

Use your arm for normal activities but avoid lifting heavy weights for a couple of weeks.

What should I look out for?

If your breasts become swollen, red and/or hot to touch please contact your doctor, or Breast Care Nurse.

Contact us

If you need further support or advice, please contact a Breast Care Nurse on 01872 252880.