



Beaumont Hospital

Patient Information
on

Ultrasound Guided Breast Biopsy

What is an ultrasound guided breast biopsy?

A breast biopsy involves the removal of some tissue from the breast to allow it to be analysed. This type of breast biopsy is performed by a specially trained radiologist using the ultrasound machine for guidance.

How I should I prepare for the procedure?

- Inform the radiology staff if you are taking any blood thinning medications e.g. warfarin, aspirin and Plavix.
- Wear comfortable clothes ideally bottoms and a top as opposed to a dress.
- Eat and drink as normal. There is no need to fast.

How long will the biopsy last?

An ultrasound guided biopsy may take up to 30 minutes.

How is the biopsy performed?

- Firstly, the radiologist will explain the procedure step by step and ask you to sign a consent form. They will answer any questions you have about the procedure.
- You will lie on the ultrasound couch with your arm stretched above your head.
- The radiologist will clean the skin over the area to be biopsied with disinfectant and inject local anaesthetic into the area to numb it.
- A biopsy needle will then be placed into the area and tissue samples will be taken.

Please note you must remain as still as possible while the biopsy is being performed.

What will I feel during the biopsy?

Please be aware you will be awake during the procedure. The local anaesthetic stings as it is injected but it numbs the area quickly. You might feel pressure or pushing in the breast during the procedure. If you do feel any pain please let the radiologist know.

Clip 'Marker' Placement:

In some cases, a tiny titanium clip marker is placed at the site of the biopsy. The radiologist will tell you if a clip is required. This marks the area sampled for future reference. You will not be able to feel this clip marker and it does not set off any airport or shop alarms. If a clip is placed gentle mammogram images are performed on that side to confirm position of the clip in the breast.

What happens after the biopsy?

Once the biopsy is complete pressure will be applied to the area to stop any bleeding. The area will be covered with a dressing. You will receive an information leaflet before you leave on how to care for the area.

When do I get my results?

The biopsy specimen will be sent to the pathology laboratory for analysis. It may take 10 working days for your results to be available. You will receive your results at your next out-patient appointment clinic appointment. You will be contacted by post or by phone with an appointment date.

If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us on one of the following numbers below.

Breast Imaging Unit: (01) 8092279

Breast Care Nurse Specialists: (01) 8093183

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Author(s) Breast Care Office

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