

Breast biopsy



When you have an abnormal mammogram, ultrasound or breast exam, your doctor may recommend core needle biopsy. This involves taking samples of tissue and looking at them under a microscope.

Depending on your condition, your biopsy may be guided by stereotactic mammography equipment, ultrasound or MRI. Whichever way your biopsy is performed, we'll walk you through the steps and help make you as comfortable as possible.

Stereotactic-guided breast biopsy

Often used for calcifications or calcium deposits, the stereotactic method uses a computer to calculate the position of the area that is biopsied. Here's what you can expect:

- ▲ You'll be in a sitting or lying-down position while your breast is compressed.
- ▲ Several images will be taken to confirm the area to be biopsied.
- ▲ Your skin will be washed with an antibacterial solution.
- ▲ Your radiologist will use a local anesthetic to numb the breast.
- ▲ A small incision will be made where the biopsy needle will enter the breast.
- ▲ Multiple samples of the tissue will be taken.
- ▲ You should only feel pressure. If you feel anything else, let us know.
- ▲ Body stiffness may occur, but it is important not to move during your procedure.
- ▲ Your radiologist may leave a small metallic tissue marker in the breast to identify the biopsy area during future visits.
- ▲ You'll have a mammogram after the biopsy to document the placement of this marker.

Ultrasound-guided breast biopsy

Ultrasound-guided breast biopsy uses sound waves instead of X-rays. The radiologist will view a monitor as the biopsy needle is placed in position and a tissue sample is taken. You'll lie on your back, but the breast is not compressed. The remaining steps of the ultrasound-guided biopsy are similar to those for a stereotactic biopsy.

MRI-guided biopsy

MRI-guided breast biopsy uses a powerful magnetic field, radio waves and a computer to help locate a breast lump or abnormality and guide a needle to remove a tissue sample for examination under a microscope.





Recovery

A core biopsy requires little recovery time, and there is no significant scarring to the breast. Acetaminophen or ibuprofen may be used for relief of any discomfort. An ice pack may also be helpful and should be placed inside your bra for best results. It is recommended that you avoid strenuous activity for 24 hours following your procedure. If you notice bleeding, swelling, redness or heat, notify your physician.

Results

Tissue samples taken during a core biopsy are sent to be examined by a pathologist. The findings will be sent to your physician.

Ready to care for you

If you have a breast health condition, our team offers complete care that's tailored to fit your needs. No matter the diagnosis, we're ready to help you get back to Better.



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