If you have a questionable area on your mammogram that is seen on your imaging but not felt, you may have a needle localization procedure before your breast biopsy. This procedure helps the surgeon locate the area to be biopsied.

**Types of needle localization**
You’ll have one of four types of needle localization, depending on the abnormality and where it is located in the breast:
- Mammography
- Ultrasound
- Stereotactic technology
- MRI

**What to expect**
The steps for all needle localization procedures are generally the same:
- For MRI- and ultrasound-guided localization, you’ll lie on a padded exam table. For stereotactic- and mammography-guided localization, you’ll sit in a chair, and the breast will be compressed.
- Images will be made to visualize the area to be localized.
- The skin will be cleaned with an antibacterial solution.
- The radiologist will numb an area of the breast. You’ll feel a small stick and slight discomfort as the local anesthetic is injected, which lasts about 10 – 15 seconds.
- After the skin is numb, you may feel pressure from the mammogram unit or from the needle.
- A needle will be placed through the numbed area and directed toward the lesion. This is used as a guide for the localization wire.
- Images will be made with the needle in place to determine accurate placement.
- The localization wire then will be guided through the needle.
- When the wire is secure, the needle will be removed, leaving the wire in place.
- Two final images will be taken to show the wire, which will guide the surgeon during your biopsy.
- A dressing will be placed over the wire, and you will go to surgery.

**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.