

Image guided percutaneous breast biopsy

What is it?

A breast biopsy is a procedure in which tissue samples from a breast mass are removed to look for signs of cancer. Occasionally, a needle may be inserted into a cyst or cystic mass to obtain fluid for therapeutic and/or diagnostic purposes. The procedure will be performed by a doctor (radiologist) using ultrasound or stereotactic (mammogram) guidance.

Before the procedure

Your doctor will explain the procedure to you and answer any questions that you may have about the procedure. Risks include, but are not limited to, the following: bleeding, infection, discomfort/bruising at the biopsy site, collapsed lung and damage to adjacent tissues/organs. Most complications require only additional observation, although administration of fluids, medications or blood products may be needed. Rarely, chest tube placement and/or surgery could be indicated if a life threatening complication is encountered.

Breast biopsy may be contraindicated in patients with bleeding disorders or active infection.

You will be asked to sign a consent giving permission to undergo the procedure. Please make sure someone is available to drive you home if the procedure is performed on an outpatient basis.

Inform the doctor if you have any drug allergies, a known bleeding disorder or if you take an anticoagulant (blood thinner), aspirin, ibuprofen, or any other medication that may affect blood clotting. In most cases, these medications may need to be temporarily discontinued prior to undergoing this procedure. Additional lab work may be required in order to verify your blood is not too thin.

During the procedure

We will attempt to make you as comfortable as possible for the procedure. You may have to lie in the same position for up to an hour.

Your skin will be cleaned with an antiseptic solution then draped to create a sterile field. Local anesthetic (e.g. lidocaine) will be used to numb the skin and soft tissue. This may cause a brief stinging sensation.

A needle will be inserted through the numbed area and into the breast mass. The biopsy may be performed through an introducer needle; generally 4-5 samples are acquired.

Once adequate specimens have been acquired, a small metallic clip will usually be placed to denote the area of the biopsy. The introducer needle will be removed. Pressure will be applied at the site until bleeding has stopped, and then a bandage will be placed at the site.

If a clip is placed, a mammogram will be performed after the biopsy to ensure that the clip deployed properly. Only gentle compression will be required for this mammogram.

After the procedure

Once you are medically cleared from discharge after the biopsy, please make sure someone is available to drive you home.

You can apply an icepack to the biopsy site for 5-10 minutes at a time following the biopsy. Doing this for 4-6 hours after the biopsy may help relieve post procedural pain and swelling.

The biopsy site may be sore for several days after the procedure, and some bruising is common. Take a pain reliever for the soreness as recommended by your regular doctor; acetaminophen (Tylenol) is a good over the counter option. Aspirin and certain other pain relievers could increase the risk of bleeding. Be sure to only take medications approved by your doctor.

Avoid strenuous activity and heavy lifting for at least 3 days. **Do not lift anything heavier than 5 pounds during this time. Avoid repeated arm motions, particularly on the side of your biopsy. This includes activities like vacuuming, window washing or weight lifting.**

Do not shower or bathe the afternoon or the evening following the biopsy. You can shower and bathe normally the next day.

If you discontinued a blood thinner prior to undergoing this procedure, please contact the doctor who sent you for this study to determine when you can safely resume taking this specific medication.

Notify your doctor or report to the ER if you experience any of the following:

- ❖ Fever and/or chills
- ❖ Redness, swelling, draining, or bleeding at the procedure site
- ❖ Worsening pain at the procedure site or elsewhere
- ❖ Chest pain, shortness of breath and/or difficulty breathing

If you have any questions before and following your procedure call the Radiology nurse at 662-293-1404

Date: _____

(Patient Signature)

(Witness)