

# Mammographic Guided Core Needle Breast Biopsy

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## What is a mammographic guided core needle breast biopsy?

A **core needle breast biopsy** is a procedure to remove small pieces of tissue from the breast so we can study them more closely. **Mammographic guided** means that we use x-rays to guide the needle during the procedure.

- A **radiologist** (a doctor who performs and reviews medical imaging tests) will do this procedure.
- A **pathologist** (a doctor who studies tissue under a microscope to look for disease) will study the tissue samples from the biopsy.

The entire appointment lasts about 2.5 hours. You will be awake during the procedure, and we will give you local numbing medication to prevent pain. You will feel pressure and vibration during the test, but you should not feel anything sharp.

## What kind of tissue samples will you remove?

- The radiologist will take multiple samples of the concerning area (calcifications or concerning tissue) through one needle stick.  
**Calcifications** are tiny pieces of calcium in the breast. Most calcifications and tissue are **benign** (not cancer), but some calcifications may be caused by early cancer.
- This procedure is the easiest way to sample tissue and avoid surgery.
- The breast will be in compression (squeezed by a machine, similar to a mammogram). We use a needle to take the samples.

## **How do I prepare for the procedure?**

- Make sure we have a list of your current medications and allergies.
- Continue to take your medications as usual, unless you get different instructions from us or from your doctor.
- Wear a comfortable 2-piece (separate top and bottom) outfit to your appointment.
- Please bring a supportive bra to wear after the procedure. If you do not have or wear bras, we will give you a supportive wrap.
- Eat and drink normally on the day of the procedure.
- A Breast Imaging nurse will call you to discuss the procedure before your appointment.

## **What happens on the day of the procedure?**

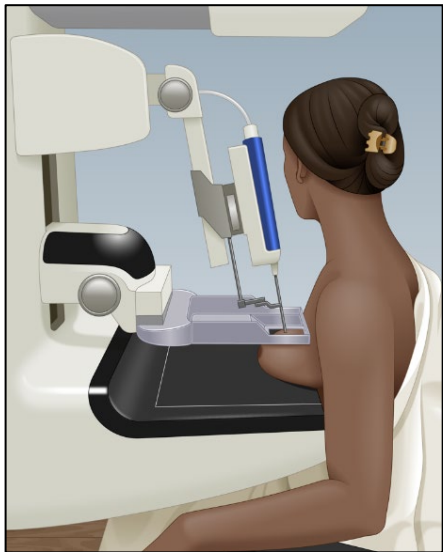
- Once you arrive, you will talk with the nurse and radiologist and sign a consent form to agree to the procedure. We will answer any of your questions.
- For the procedure, you will either lie on your stomach with your head turned to the side on a special table, or you will sit upright in a special chair (see the included images). The radiologist will decide which position is best on the day of your procedure.
  - If you are positioned on your stomach, your breast will hang through the hole in the table, and there will be a machine to compress and x-ray it under the table. You will need to stay in this position for about 30 minutes.
  - If you are positioned sitting upright in a chair, your breast will be compressed and x-rayed (like a mammogram) for the biopsy. You will need to stay in this position for about 30 minutes.



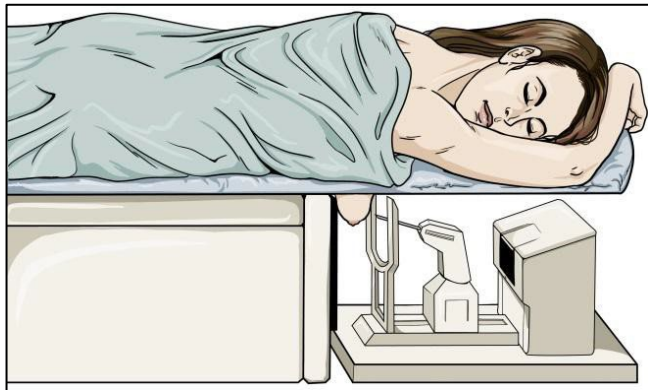
**Biopsy chair**



**Biopsy table**



**Biopsy in a seated position**

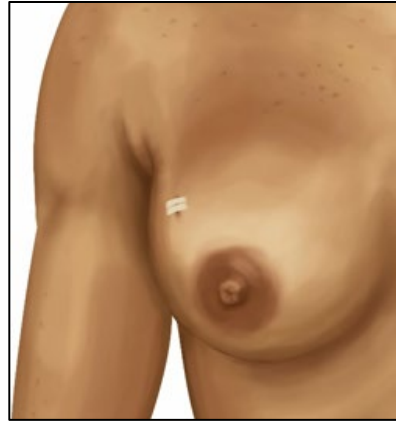


**Biopsy in a lying down position**

- We will clean your skin, numb your breast with local medication, and place the needle into the breast to take the samples. You will hear the motor and beeping of the machine while we take samples through the needle, but you should not feel anything sharp.
- After we know we have a good sample, we place a tiny metal marker in the breast where we took the samples. This is important to show doctors who will care for you in the future where you had the core needle breast

biopsy. You will not be able to feel this marker. It is safe in an MRI machine, and it will not set off any metal detectors.

- After we take the samples and place the marker, we will remove the needle from your breast. We will hold pressure over the breast and place a bandage over the area where we removed the needle. We will send you home with an ice pack over the bandaged area.
- We will take a mammogram (a gentler mammogram using less pressure than a routine mammogram) to make sure we can see the biopsy marker.
- A nurse will check you after your procedure to make sure you are doing well before you leave. You will get paperwork with your discharge instructions and a phone number to call our department if you have any questions or concerns.



### **What can I expect after the procedure?**

- You will have a small bandage over the area where the needle was inserted (shown in the picture). You will not have stitches.
- If needed, you may take acetaminophen (Tylenol®)
- You will receive an ice pack for the area to use at home for the rest of the day (20 minutes every hour if possible))
- Do not lift anything heavier than a gallon of milk (about 9 pounds) or participate in strenuous exercise (any activity that makes you breathe hard and gets your heart rate up) for 48 hours after the biopsy.
- Do not take a bath, swim, or go in a hot tub for 10 days.
- You may shower the morning after your procedure.
- You will get a call from us when we get your results from the pathologist, usually within 2-3 business days. Results will also be sent to your online patient portal.

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