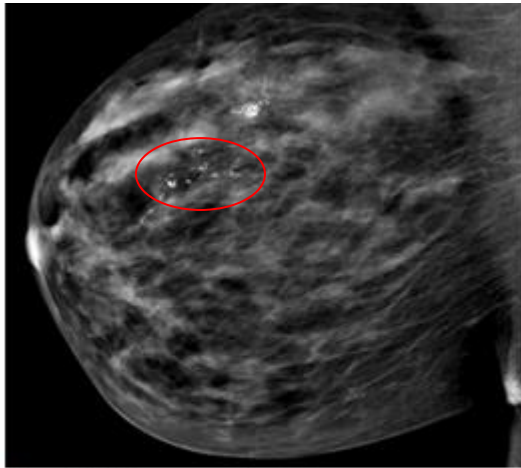


Stereotactic Core Needle Biopsy: What to expect

What is a stereotactic breast biopsy?

Stereotactic core needle biopsy is a test to remove tissue from the breast for examination by a pathologist. Stereotactic means that we use x-rays to guide the needle. Radiologists perform this test to sample calcifications (and sometimes lumps) in the breast.

Calcifications are tiny calcium flecks in the breast. Most calcifications are benign (not cancer), but some calcifications may be due to early cancer.



Tiny calcifications seen on the mammogram.

A radiologist is a doctor who detects disease on medical images and performs tests using medical imaging.

A pathologist is a doctor who studies tissue under a microscope to detect disease.

This is the least invasive test to sample these calcifications. To see the calcifications for a biopsy, we compress your breast similar to a mammogram. We use x-rays to see calcifications and a needle to take tissue samples. We send the

samples to the pathologist to make a diagnosis.

The entire appointment lasts about 2 hours. You will be awake during the test and receive local numbing medicine to prevent pain. You will feel pressure and vibration during the test, but should not feel anything sharp.

How do I prepare for a stereotactic breast biopsy?



Do not take blood thinning medications 5 days before your biopsy to reduce your risk of bleeding. Examples are NSAIDS such as ibuprofen (Advil®, Motrin®), naproxen (Aleve®), aspirin, clopidogrel (Plavix®), or warfarin (Coumadin®). *Ask your doctor if it is safe for you to stop taking these medications.*



Wear a comfortable 2 piece outfit and supportive bra to your appointment.

Eat and drink normally on the day of the test.

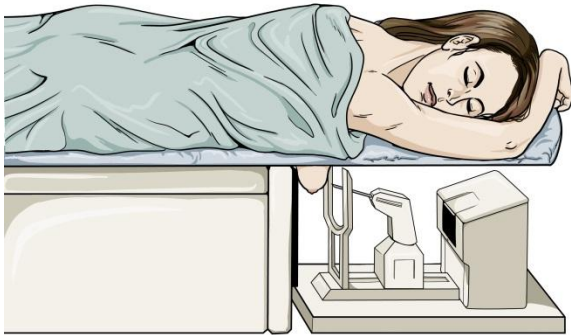


A Breast Imaging nurse will call you to discuss the test before your appointment. Call 734-936-4500 with any questions prior to your test.

What happens on the day of the Biopsy?



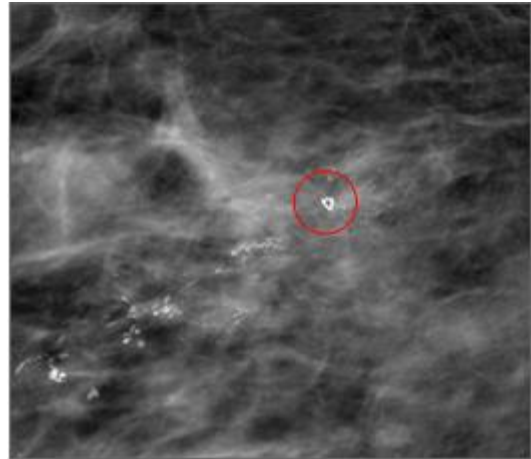
After you arrive, you will fill out paperwork with the nurse or radiologist to agree to the test. We will answer any questions you have about the procedure. You will then lie on your abdomen with your head turned to the side on the special biopsy table. Your breast will be suspended through a hole and compressed underneath the table. You will need to stay in this position for about 30 minutes.



We will clean your skin, numb your breast with local medication, make a tiny incision, and place the needle into the breast near the calcifications. You will hear the motor and beeping of the machine while we take samples through the needle.

We have a short wait while the technologist x-rays the sampled tissue to make sure the calcifications are in the tissue.

Finally, we place a tiny metal biopsy marker in the breast at the site of the biopsy to show doctors who will care for you in the future where the biopsy was done. You will not be able to feel this marker, it is safe in a MRI machine, and it will not set off any metal detectors.



Biopsy marker in the breast next to remaining calcifications

After the needle is removed, a nurse will hold pressure over the breast and place a bandage. Before you leave, we will take a mammogram using less pressure than a routine mammogram to show the marker.

You will stay for one hour after the test and be checked by the nurse to make sure you are doing well before you leave.

What happens after the Biopsy?



You will have a bandage over a very small incision (no stitches). You may take acetaminophen (Tylenol®) or use ice packs for pain if needed.

Do not lift anything heavier than a gallon of milk (about 9 pounds) or participate in strenuous exercise for 24-48 hours after the biopsy.

Do not take a bath, swim or go in a hot tub for 10 days after the biopsy. You may shower the morning after the biopsy.

We or your physician will call you when we get your results from the pathologist, usually within 2-3 business days.

Helpful Resources:

American Cancer Society:

<http://www.cancer.org/cancer/breastcancer>

National Comprehensive Cancer Network:

http://www.nccn.org/patients/patient_guidelines/breast/

Susan G. Komen:

<http://www.komen.org/>

Our location:

Breast Imaging Department

Comprehensive Cancer Center

Level B2

Phone: 734-936-6274

Disclaimer: This document is for informational purposes only and is not intended to take the place of the care and attention of your personal physician or other professional medical services. Talk with your doctor if you have Questions about individual health concerns or specific treatment options.

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