

Ultrasound-Guided Core Needle biopsy: What to expect

What is an ultrasound-guided breast biopsy?



An ultrasound guided core needle biopsy is a test to remove tissue from a lump in the breast. Radiologists use an ultrasound machine to see the lump and guide the needle into the lump.

We take small pieces of tissue from the lump through the needle and send it to the pathologist to make a diagnosis. Most lumps are benign (not cancer), but some lumps may be cancer.

There is no radiation during the biopsy. You will lie on your back or side for the test.

The entire appointment lasts about 2 hours. You will be awake during the test, but local numbing medicine is used to prevent pain.

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

A pathologist is

A doctor who studies cells under a microscope to identify disease.

How do I prepare for an ultrasound-guided 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.

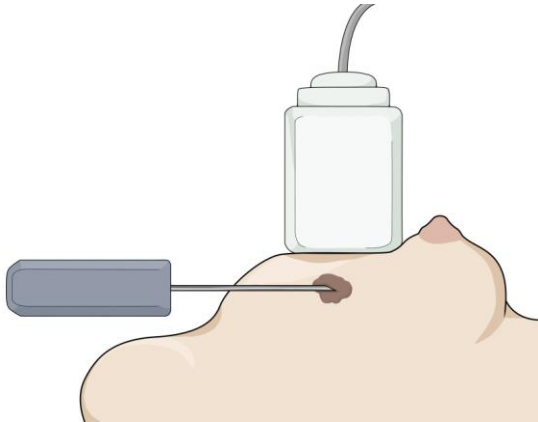
Eat and drink normally before the test.



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.

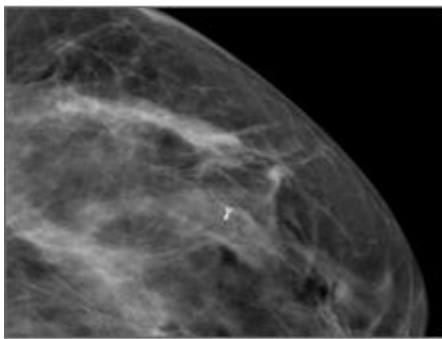
What happens on the day of the Biopsy?

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. You will then lie on your back with your arm above your head. 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 lump. You will hear a click when the biopsy needle takes a sample. Usually, we take 4-6 samples.

Finally, we place a tiny metal biopsy marker in the lump to show the doctors who will care for you in the future where the biopsy was done. You will not be



Biopsy marker in the breast

able to feel this marker, it is safe in a MRI machine, and it will not set off any metal detectors.

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 biopsy 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 can I expect 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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