

XRay-Guided Breast Biopsy

What is an X-Ray guided core biopsy?

This procedure usually is needed when an abnormal area is seen on a mammogram that can't be felt on a clinical examination or seen well on an ultrasound scan. The mammogram equipment and a computer are used to guide the biopsy needle to the exact location of the abnormality. Several small tissue samples are removed and sent for analysis by the pathologist so that a diagnosis can be made.

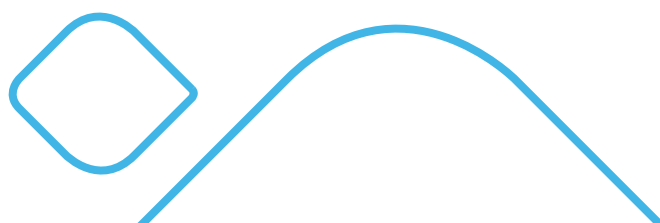
What should I expect during the procedure?

The biopsy is usually performed with you either sitting down or lying on your side. The radiographer will position you in the mammogram machine and take an image to confirm the exact location of the area in your breast which needs the biopsy. You will remain in that position with your breast compressed whilst the x-ray guided core biopsy is performed. It is important that you keep as still as possible.

The area is cleaned before an injection of local anaesthetic is given to numb the area. This may sting for a few seconds. Once the anaesthetic is working, a small cut will be made in your skin for the biopsy needle. We will then let you know that the sampling is about to begin. You will hear the needle make a loud "click" when the sample is taken, or a suction noise if we are using a vacuum type of device. 6-12 samples of tissue are usually needed. An X-ray of the tissue may be taken, for example if we are sampling calcifications, to double check that the correct area has been biopsied.

What is a marker clip?

It may be necessary to mark the site of the biopsy. This is done by inserting a tiny metal clip into the lesion immediately after the biopsy has been done. Your breast will be carefully removed from the machine and once you feel ready for it, a mammogram will be taken to view the location of the clip within your breast.



If surgery is needed, the clip may be used to locate the area and the clip would be removed at the same time. If no further action is required, the clip will remain in place in your breast where it will indicate on future mammograms that the area has been fully investigated. You will not be able to feel the marker and it does not cause side effects. As it is made of a medical metal called titanium (or similar) it does not cause problems with MRI scanners or airport/metal detectors.

How long will it take

The x-ray guided biopsy usually takes around 45-60 minutes.

Can I bring a relative or a friend with me?

Yes, please feel free to bring a friend or relative with you whilst you wait. However, they will not be allowed into the room for the actual procedure.

What happens after the procedure?

Firm pressure is applied to the breast to reduce bruising. Steri-strip plasters are used to close the very small cut in your skin and a dressing is applied. This should stay on for approximately 72 hours. During this time, please avoid strenuous activity, such as lifting, heavy housework or sports. It may help to wear a soft sports bra for 24- 48 hours afterwards. After the procedure you should receive another leaflet about care of the small wound and dressing.

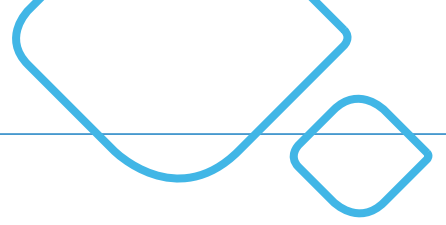
How will I get the result of the mammogram guided biopsy?

You will be given an appointment to receive the result of the biopsy before you leave the clinic. This may be either a telephone or breast clinic appointment and usually takes place about one week later.

Please note that occasionally not enough tissue is sampled, or an uncertain result is found, and a further biopsy may be necessary – this will be discussed with you at the results appointment.

What are the potential risks and side effects?

The mammogram machine uses a small amount of radiation to produce the images. However, this has been considered and you have been sent this appointment because the breast team feels that this is the best test to investigate your condition.



COMMON:

- **Internal bruising** (haematoma) - bleeding at the wound site can occur. This usually gets better without any additional treatment. Please inform us if you are taking anticoagulant (blood thinning) medication as bruising will be more likely to occur.
- **Pain** – The local anaesthetic will wear off after a few hours and you may feel some soreness. A mild painkiller, such as paracetamol may be taken.
- **Scar** - A scar may be left at the site of the incision in the skin, usually under 5mm.

RARE:

- **Infection** is very unusual but may require antibiotics. We use sterile equipment to minimise this risk and will provide you with appropriate aftercare guidance. If the skin around the wound becomes reddened and sore, please make an appointment to see your GP.
- **Severe internal bruising (haematoma)** – internal bleeding may cause your breast to swell and occasionally admittance into hospital and surgery is required to manage this.
- **Allergic reactions** can be caused by local anaesthetic but are very rare.
- **Failure to obtain a sample** – occasionally not enough tissue is obtained. This may be due to the size of the lesion, intolerance to the procedure, challenging location of the lesion in the breast or equipment failure.

Who should I contact if I have any more questions or concerns?

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the breast unit radiographer team on: 01225 825885

Available: Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm (excluding bank holidays)

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If you would like this leaflet in email form, large print, braille or another language, please contact the Patient Support and Complaints team on 01225 825656.

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