

Ultrasound guided core biopsy

What is this?

An ultrasound guided core biopsy is the way in which we take a sample of breast tissue so that it can be looked at under the microscope in the pathology department. The ultrasound machine is used to guide the radiologist (x-ray specialist) to the area from where we want to take the sample of tissue.

Why do I need this test?

You have had this procedure carried out because there is an area in your breast tissue that we need to do some further investigations, in order that a diagnosis can be made.

Results

You will be given an appointment to return for the results before you leave the clinic. The follow up appointment is usually one week from the date of biopsy and is held in the Breast Screen Unit unless informed otherwise.

Aftercare

Pain

The local anaesthetic you received to numb the area will wear off after about an hour and your breasts may feel sore and uncomfortable. A mild painkiller like Paracetamol/Ibuprofen may be taken to ease any discomfort.

The dressing

The dressing you have had applied should be left on for 48 hours. It is waterproof and so you can have a shower after 24 hours but no scrubbing over the dressing. Take the dressing off after 48 hours in shower/bath.

If you experience any skin irritation from the dressing, please remove it immediately and replace it with another suitable dressing, e.g. large plaster.

Bruising

The amount of bruising after this procedure varies widely. Any bruising around the biopsy area should take one or two weeks to clear up. Also the area may feel lumpy from bruising under the skin. This is normal after a biopsy.

Infection

Although we take great care to prevent infection, there is a small possibility the wound may become infected. If there is any pus present or the skin becomes red or feels hot or swollen please contact your GP or the Breast Screen Nurse.

Bleeding

In the unlikely event there is a small amount of bleeding, apply firm pressure with a dressing or tissue over the original dressing for five minutes and it should stop. If the bleeding continues please contact your GP or the Breast Screen Nurse.

Exercise

Rest on the day of the biopsy and avoid any heavy lifting or other heavy jobs. Also avoid swimming or sport for a couple of days after the biopsy.

More information

If you have any concerns or worries related to this procedure, please contact Carolyn Denham, Breast Screen Nurse on 0118 322 8563. Out of normal working hours please contact your GP.

For more information about Breast Screening visit our website
www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk/screening

This document can be made available in other languages and formats upon request.

C Denham, March 2019

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