

What is a Breast Core Biopsy?

A Breast Core Biopsy is a procedure performed by our team of Breast Imaging Specialists. Mammography, Ultrasound or MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) images are used during the biopsy to locate the abnormal appearing area of interest.

The majority of breast biopsies are negative (no signs of cancer). However, if a cancer is found at an early stage, options for treatment are much better.

What should I do to prepare for this Procedure?

- On the day of your appointment, bring a list of your allergies (food, environment & drugs)
- You may eat and drink normally before the test
- You may take all of your prescription medication unless instructed otherwise by your doctor
- If you have any questions, call the Mammography Department (see below) where your procedure is booked

What will happen during the Procedure?

- The Technologist and the Radiologist will review the procedure with you and answer any questions you may have
- The area to be sampled will be cleaned and numbed with local anesthetic injected into the skin and breast tissue
- A biopsy needle will be inserted into the breast by the radiologist. Imaging will be taken to make sure the needle is in the correct area
- Once the needle is in position, several small samples of breast tissue are removed using the biopsy needle
- As samples are taken, you may hear a sound from the biopsy instrument
- A small clip may be placed in the breast after the breast biopsy to mark the area of concern for future follow up or other treatments such as surgery if necessary.

What will happen after the Procedure?

- When the biopsy is done, a bandage will be applied to your breast
- You will be asked to remain in the department for 15-30 minutes
- You may experience some soreness after the procedure
- You will be given post procedure instructions
- The results of the biopsy will be sent to your doctor
- Make an appointment with your doctor in 7-10 days to review your results

What are some potential risks of the procedure

1. Bleeding - Anytime a needle is inserted into the body there is a risk of bleeding. For this procedure, this risk is very small, perhaps minor bruising. More severe bleeding is quite rare. If you are still in the radiology department, please make the ultrasound technologist aware and s/he will get the radiologist to see you. We do not anticipate this happening.
2. Infection - Again, for this procedure this risk is very small. If you develop a fever, redness/soreness at the site over the next 24-48 hours please have it assessed by a doctor as soon as possible.
3. It is possible that the biopsy may be inconclusive and that you will need to repeat the biopsy.