

Mammogram or Ultrasound Guided Breast Core Biopsy

Patient Information

Leongatha Memorial Hospital Medical Imaging

What is a Breast Core Biopsy?

A breast biopsy is performed to examine a questionable area in the breast and identify it as either benign (non-cancerous) or malignant (cancerous). A sample of breast tissue is removed so that it can be examined in a laboratory.

What to Bring:

Bring any relevant previous imaging or scans and reports (film packet or a CD containing Mammograms, X rays, CT scans, ultrasound or MRIs etc.).

Anticoagulants:

If you take blood thinners such as Warfarin or Aspirin, you may need to stop this medication prior to the procedure. Please discuss this with your doctor and inform us when you make your appointment.

Preparation:

Arrange for someone to take you home from your procedure.

How long will it take?

Your examination will take about one hour.

What to Wear:

Wear a two-piece outfit (skirt or pants and a top). You will be given a gown to change in to, but you will only need to remove your clothes from the waist up.

Procedure:

On arrival to the hospital a nurse will discuss with you your medical history and dress you in a patient gown.

The doctor will explain the procedure and discuss with you the potential risks and you will be asked to sign a consent form.

For ultrasound guided biopsy you will be lying down on a bed and the doctor will locate the abnormal breast tissue or suspicious lump using ultrasound guidance.

Local anaesthetic will be injected in the skin over the area of breast tissue to be sampled.

A biopsy needle will be inserted into the breast through the numb patch of skin once or several times (depending on the device being used) to get samples of the breast tissue to send to pathology for examination.

Often, we will also leave a clip in situ and require a mammogram afterwards to confirm position.

For mammogram guided biopsy you will usually be standing (very occasionally) you may be lying down.

Pressure will be applied to the puncture site of the breast for a short period of time and then covered with a small waterproof dressing.

An ice pack will also be applied to the area post procedure to reduce bruising.

Post Procedure Care:

Bruising and tenderness at the needle site is to be expected. At home you should take simple pain relief such as paracetamol as required.

If bleeding occurs, apply pressure to the procedure site for 5 minutes. If it continues to bleed seek medical assistance.

Avoid heavy lifting (more than 5kgs) and sporting activities for 1 - 3 days until you feel completely recovered. Remove the dressing the next day.

You will be provided with an information sheet regarding discharge instructions upon completion of your procedure.

Results:

The results together with the procedure report will be sent to your referring doctor. Return to your doctor to discuss examination results.

The biopsy sample will be sent to pathology for analysis. The biopsy results will be sent directly to your doctor and usually take between 5 and 7 days.

Radiation Risk:

Most medical imaging tests, except MRI and ultrasound, involve exposure to radiation from X-rays. Your doctor considers that the benefits of the examination you require to be greater than the small risk posed by the radiation exposure

Any questions please contact us:

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Leongatha Memorial Hospital

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