



Beaumont Hospital

Patient Information
on

Breast Wire Localisation

What is a Breast Wire Localisation?

A breast wire localisation is a procedure performed by a breast radiologist (doctor who specialises in imaging/radiology) to assist the breast surgeon by marking the area of the breast to be removed during your surgery. It involves placing a fine wire into your breast under mammographic or ultrasound guidance. This technique is usually used if the area to be removed is difficult to feel. Your breast surgeon uses the wire to locate the tissue that needs to be removed.

When is the procedure performed?

The procedure is carried out on the day of your surgery before you go to the operating room.

How long will the procedure last?

The localisation procedure may take up to one hour if multiple wires need to be inserted or the area is difficult to reach but usually it is much quicker than that.

How is the procedure performed?

This procedure is carried out by a radiologist. Firstly they will explain the procedure and get you to sign a consent form and answer any questions you may have.

1. The skin over the area is cleaned with disinfectant and local anaesthetic is injected into the area to numb it.
2. Using a mammogram or ultrasound to guide them, the radiologist will place a fine wire into the area of the breast that needs to be removed.
3. The radiologist will check that the wire is in the correct place and then secure it in place using a dressing.

You must remain as still as possible while the wire placement is being performed.

In some cases a very gentle mammogram is required after the wire localisation. This is to give detailed pictures to the breast surgeon as a guide in the operating theatre.

What happens after the procedure is completed?

You will be taken back to the ward where you will wait to be called for your operation. The wire is removed at the time of surgery. It is very important that you rest quietly during this time to ensure that the wire does not become dislodged.

If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the breast imaging unit or any of the breast care nurse specialists.

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