



Beaumont Hospital

Patient Information
on

Stereotactic Breast Biopsy

What is a stereotactic breast biopsy?

A breast biopsy involves the removal of some tissue from the breast to allow it to be analysed. This type of breast biopsy is performed by a specially trained radiologist using the mammogram machine for guidance.

How should I prepare for the procedure?

- Do not wear deodorant, lotion or talcum powder under your arms or on your breasts on the day of your procedure.
- Inform the radiology staff if you are taking any of blood thinning medications e.g. warfarin, aspirin or Plavix.
- Inform the radiology staff if there is any possibility that you may be pregnant.
- Wear comfortable clothes ideally bottoms and a top as opposed to a dress.
- Make sure to have something to eat before the procedure. It is not necessary to fast.

How long will the biopsy last?

A stereotactic biopsy may take up to 1 hour if the area is difficult to reach or multiple areas need to be sampled but it is usually much less.

How is the biopsy performed?

1. Firstly, the radiologist will explain the procedure set by step and to ask you to sign a consent form. They will answer any questions you may have about the procedure.

2. You will be introduced to the staff who will be involved in the procedure i.e. consultant radiologist, mammographer, health care assistant and you will be asked to change into a gown.
3. You will be asked to lie or sit next to the mammography machine.
4. Your breast will be placed on the x-ray table and a paddle will compress the breast to hold it in the correct position. This position is maintained throughout the procedure.
5. Stereotactic mammography pinpoints the exact location of a breast abnormality by using a computer and x-rays taken from two different angles.
6. The radiologist will clean the skin over the area with disinfectant and inject local anaesthetic into the area to numb it.
7. A biopsy needle will then be placed into the area and tissue samples will be taken.
8. These samples are then x-rayed to make sure that the correct area was sampled.

Please note you must remain still while the biopsy is being performed.

What will I feel during the biopsy?

Please be aware you will be awake during the procedure. The local anaesthetic stings as it is injected but it numbs the area quite quickly. You might feel pressure or pushing in the breast during the procedure. If you do feel any pain please let the radiologist know.

Clip 'Marker' Placement:

At the end of the procedure, a tiny titanium clip is placed at the site of biopsy. This marks the area sampled for future reference. You will not be able to feel this clip marker and it does not set off any airport or shop alarms. A gentle mammogram is performed after the biopsy to confirm the location of this clip.

What happens after the biopsy?

Once the biopsy is complete pressure will be applied to stop any bleeding. The area will then be covered with a dressing. You will receive an information leaflet before you leave on how to care for the area.

When will I get my results?

The biopsy sample will be sent to the pathology laboratory for examination. It can take 10 working days for your results to be available. You will receive your results at your next clinic appointment. You will be contacted by post or phone with an appointment date.

If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us on one of the following numbers below.

Breast Imaging Unit: (01) 8092279

Breast Care Nurse Specialists: (01) 8093183