



Beaumont Hospital

Patient Information  
on

**Breast  
MRI Biopsy**

## **What is a breast MRI biopsy?**

A breast MRI 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 consultant radiologist using the MRI machine for guidance. This technique is used when the area of question cannot be seen either on a mammogram or an ultrasound.

## **How should I prepare for the procedure?**

- Inform the radiology staff if you are taking any of the following blood thinning medication: warfarin, aspirin and Plavix.
- Wear comfortable clothes ideally bottoms and a top as opposed to a dress. Metal objects are not permitted in the MRI machine so we advise to leave all jewellery at home. You do not need to be fasting for this procedure.

## **How long will the biopsy last?**

The procedure can take from 30 minutes to 1 hour.

## **How is the biopsy performed?**

- Firstly, the radiologist will explain the procedure step by step and ask you to sign a consent form. They will answer any questions you have about the procedure.
- As with the MRI scan you will be positioned face down on the scan table. Only the breast being biopsied will be positioned in the mould. The breast will be compressed gently

- An initial scan will be performed to identify the site for biopsy. The scan table will come back out of the 'tunnel'.
- The radiologist will look at the images to calculate where to place the needle.
- The breast will be cleaned with antiseptic and local anaesthetic is given to numb the area. Once the breast is numb, the doctor will place the biopsy needle.
- A repeat shorter scan will be performed to check the position of the needle. The table will come out again and samples will then be taken.

**Please note you must remain as still as possible while the biopsy is being performed. You may hear a loud banging noise during the procedure; this is from the MRI machine itself and is expected.**

### **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:**

A tiny titanium clip marker is placed at the site of the 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 with two views to confirm position of the clip in the breast.

### **What happens after the biopsy?**

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

### **When do I get my results?**

The biopsy specimen will be sent to the pathology laboratory for analysis. It may take 10 working days for your results to be available. You will receive your results at your next out-patient appointment clinic appointment.

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

MRI Unit: (01) 8093100

Breast Care Nurse Specialists: (01) 8093183