Core Needle Biopsy of the Breast

Name: ___________________________ Phone: ___________________________
Location: __________________________
Day: ___________________________ Date: ___________________________ Time: ___________________________

Type of core needle biopsy you will be having:

☐ Ultrasound-guided  ☐ Stereotactic  ☐ Breast MRI Biopsy  ☐ Tomo 3D

Note: You will need to call your insurance company to find out if your insurance plan requires preauthorization or a second opinion before one of these procedures are done.

What is a core needle biopsy?
A core needle biopsy is a way to take a tissue sample from the breast. The sample is then tested to see if it is cancerous. Sometimes the doctor uses ultrasound or mammography during the biopsy to help find the tissue that needs to be tested. There are different types of biopsies done based on what you need.

Types of core needle biopsies:
• **Ultrasound-guided needle core biopsy**: Used when a breast lump can be felt and is seen clearly on an ultrasound. This method uses ultrasound (high frequency sound waves) to guide the doctor to obtain the sample.
• **Stereotactic needle core biopsy**: Used when micro calcifications and/or breast density cannot be felt but are seen on a mammogram. Micro calcifications are little calcium deposits too small to feel. This method uses mammography (low dose images) and a computer-guided needle to get the sample.
• **Breast MRI biopsy**: Used when an area of interest does not show up on an ultrasound or mammogram.
• **Tomo 3D**: Used when an area of interest is seen on one of the slices during 3D mammography.

What are the benefits and risks for a core needle biopsy?

**Benefits:**
• High accuracy of diagnoses
• No stitches
• Short recovery time
• General anesthesia is not used.

**Risks:**
• Slight risk of bleeding, infection or pain.
• Slight possibility that a surgical biopsy would be needed at a future time. Your doctor will talk to you about this.
How do I prepare for this biopsy?
• Do not take any aspirin, Motrin®, ibuprofen or Aleve® for 5 days before the biopsy.
• If you take a blood thinner you may need to stop it for several days before the biopsy. Talk to your doctor or nurse before stopping any medicine.
• Do not wear any deodorant, antiperspirant, powder, lotion, body oil, fragrance or ointment on your breast or underarms.
• Wear a good supportive bra and a two-piece outfit on the day of the biopsy.
• Eat a light breakfast or lunch. Not eating could make you light headed.
• If you use any form of sedation or relaxation medicine for the biopsy, you must have someone drive you home. If not, you can drive yourself to and from the biopsy.

Will the biopsy hurt?
Most patients have very little discomfort with a biopsy.

What will happen after the biopsy?
The nurse will clean the biopsy site and apply a special dressing. The nurse will then give you an ice pack to place inside your bra.

How do I find out my biopsy results?
The doctor or nurse will contact you with your biopsy results in about 24 to 48 hours (one to two working days) after the procedure.

What happens during the biopsy?
A radiologist (a doctor who specializes in X-ray and ultrasound) or surgeon will explain the test. Below is a description of what to expect for each of the types of core needle biopsies.

Special considerations
• For some of the tests you will need to lie on your stomach for up to 2 hours. If you are not able to lie on your stomach let us know.
• Let your doctor know if you are pregnant or think you may be pregnant.
• Most biopsies will require a “light” 2 view mammogram to make sure the markers are in the right place.

Ultrasound-guided
• The biopsy site will be cleansed with an antiseptic solution.
• The doctor will use a local anesthetic to numb the area.
• A very small nick is then made in the skin at the site where the biopsy needle is to be inserted.
• Using ultrasound to guide the needle into the breast lump, the doctor will obtain tissue samples through the needle and send them to a lab. Several samples are usually taken.
• A site marker is then placed at the location of the biopsy site. The marker will ensure that the site can be found easily for any surgery that may be needed.
• The biopsy will take about 30 to 45 minutes.
**Breast MRI Biopsy**
- You will be placed on your stomach and you will need to stay still during test.
- The biopsy site will be cleansed with an antiseptic solution.
- The doctor will use a local anesthetic to numb the area.
- A very small nick is then made in the skin at the site where the biopsy needle is to be inserted.
- Using ultrasound to guide the needle into the breast lump, the doctor will obtain tissue samples through the needle and send them to a lab. Several samples are usually taken.
- A site marker is then placed at the location of the biopsy site. The marker will ensure that the site can be found easily for any surgery that may be needed.
- The biopsy will take about 1 ½ hour to 2 hours (90 to 120 minutes)

**Stereotactic**
- You will lie on your stomach with your breast suspended through an opening in the biopsy table.
- Your breast will be compressed in the X-ray machine that is below the table; it is similar to a regular mammogram.
- You must lie very still once you are properly positioned. The (lesion) is localized within the biopsy window.
- The biopsy site will be cleansed with an antiseptic solution.
- A local anesthetic is used to numb the breast before the needle biopsies.
- A very small nick is then made in the skin at the site where the biopsy needle is to be inserted. Several samples are usually taken.
- A site marker is then placed at the location of the biopsy site. The marker will ensure that the site can be found easily for any surgery that may be needed.
- The biopsy will take about 60 to 90 minutes.

**Tomo 3D Biopsy**
- You will be sitting for this procedure.
- Your breast will be compressed in the X-ray machine which is similar to a regular mammogram.
- The biopsy site will be cleansed with an antiseptic solution.
- A local anesthetic is used to numb the breast before the needle biopsies.
- A very small nick is then made in the skin at the site where the biopsy needle is to be inserted. Several samples are usually taken.
- A site marker is then placed at the location of the biopsy site. The marker will ensure that the site can be found easily for any surgery that may be needed.
- The whole procedure from beginning to end will take about 60 to 90 minutes.

The information presented is intended for general information and educational purposes. It is not intended to replace the advice of your health care provider. Contact your health care provider if you believe you have a health problem.