

Patient information

Information about core biopsies under x-ray guidance (vacuum assisted biopsy)

What is a biopsy under x-ray guidance?

When abnormalities are discovered, they may not always be visible on an ultra sound scan. To enable us to remove a sample of tissue from the area of abnormality and exclude the possibility of cancer, we need to be guided by use of an x-ray technique to the correct place in your breast.

Before the procedure

There are no eating and drinking restrictions, and we recommend you have eaten prior to your appointment.

Please inform a member of staff if you are taking any medicines which thin your blood, eg Warfarin.

Any other medications should be taken as usual.

What happens during the procedure?

The procedure will be explained and you will be asked for your consent for the biopsy to go ahead.

You can refuse to give your consent and not have the biopsy, but we only recommend a biopsy to help make your diagnosis.

You may feel slight discomfort or pressure during the procedure. The entire procedure takes between 40 - 60 minutes.

You will be escorted to the mammogram room, and with you either sitting or lying down, you will be positioned in the mammogram machine and further images will be taken to locate the area for biopsy.

Local anaesthetic will be used to numb the area, this may sting a little until the local anaesthetic takes effect. Then using a special needle, multiple samples of tissue will be removed using one needle insertion.

A small titanium clip marker is placed at the site of the biopsy to make it easier to identify the area should we need to in the future. If we do not need to find the area again then it is safe to leave the marker in the breast. The clip is safe in MRI and CT Scanners and will not affect airport scanners.

After the procedure

Pressure will be applied to the site to stop any bleeding. A pressure dressing will be placed over the area of the biopsy, and this should be kept on for 24 hours. The breast may be sore and tender to the touch for several days. We recommend taking pain killers after the procedure.

After the procedure we do ask you to stay for about 15 minutes and we will offer you a drink. After we have checked the dressing you will be able to go home.

When will I get my results?

Before you leave, you will be given an appointment to see the doctor to discuss your results.

It may be helpful for you to bring a friend or family member to the results appointment. We try to ensure no-one waits more than a week, but occasionally there may be a delay. You will be contacted if this is the case.

If you would like any information regarding access to the West Suffolk Hospital and its facilities please visit the website for AccessAble (the new name for DisabledGo)
<https://www.accessable.co.uk/organisations/west-suffolk-nhs-foundation-trust>



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