

Patient information

Information about core biopsies under ultrasound guidance

What is a core biopsy under ultrasound guidance?

Today, we have used ultrasound as a method to guide us to the correct place in your breast to take a sample for tissue analysis.

This involved putting gel onto the breast and passing a probe over the skin surface. This produced an image on a screen using sound waves.

Local anaesthetic was used to numb the area, then using a special needle two or three samples of tissue were removed.

Sometimes a small titanium clip marker will have been used 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 scans and CT scans and will not affect airport scanners.

After the procedure

Pressure will have been applied to the site to minimise any bleeding. A pressure dressing was placed over the area of the biopsy and this should be kept on for 24 hours.

You will be able to go home immediately after the procedure.

When will I get the 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.

Are there any risks or side effects?

Core biopsies are very safe and thousands of tests have been carried out in this hospital without incident. The most common side effects are bruising and slight bleeding. However, in rare cases patients may experience continued bleeding or swelling, or contract an infection.

Discharge advice

- Do not let your pressure dressing get wet in the shower or bath in the first 24 hours. After 24 hours, apply a small plaster if necessary and shower/bathe as normal.
- Avoid strenuous activity, such as heavy lifting for 24 hours.
- Some bruising and slight bleeding is to be expected.
- If you experience any pain or discomfort, you can take paracetamol but avoid aspirin as this could encourage bleeding.
- It may help to wear a supportive bra both day and night for 24 to 48 hours after your biopsy.

If you have any concerns please contact:

Breast Care Nursing Team

Telephone: 01284 713281, Monday—Friday 8.30 am to 4.30 pm.

Donations in support of our work may be made to the West Suffolk Hospital Breast Cancer Fund.

If you would like any information regarding access to the West Suffolk Hospital and its facilities please visit the website for AccessAble (formerly DisabledGo)

<https://www.accessable.co.uk/organisations/west-suffolk-nhs-foundation-trust>



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