

Patient information

Information about your ultrasound breast clip insertion

What is an ultrasound breast clip insertion?

It is a procedure used to insert a tiny titanium marker clip into the breast using ultrasound as a guide to ensure it is placed within the area previously seen on ultrasound.

Why do I need an ultrasound core biopsy?

Patients may have titanium clips inserted when they are about to begin neo-adjuvant chemotherapy (chemotherapy that is given before surgery). This is because sometimes the chemotherapy shrinks a breast cancer to the point where it can no longer be felt, or it is no longer visible on ultrasound. The marker clip in this instance acts as a 'landmark' to show the location of a breast cancer to aid surgery after a patient completes their chemotherapy.

Who will I see?

The examination will be performed by either a Consultant Radiographer or Consultant Radiologist.

How do I prepare for the procedure?

- There is no preparation needed for this examination, however we do suggest that you eat before the appointment.
- Please inform staff if you have any blood clotting problems or are on blood thinning medicines such as Warfarin.
- Please let staff know when you arrive if you have any known allergies.
- You may wish to bring a relative or friend to wait with you. Unfortunately, we do not have childcare facilities so please do not bring children with you.

What happens when I arrive?

Please attend the **Breast Imaging** department on the ground floor of the hospital where the receptionist will check your personal details.

- You will be asked to undress to the waist and put on a hospital gown.
- You will be taken into the imaging room and staff will explain the procedure and answer any questions.
- You will be asked to lay on a bed and ultrasound images will be taken to locate the area for the clip insertion.

The skin will then be cleaned, and a small amount of local anaesthetic will be injected into the skin, this may sting for a few seconds. The area will feel numb.

Using ultrasound to identify the correct breast area a small cut is made in the skin and a needle with the titanium clip inside is positioned in the middle of the area required to be marked.

You will have an X-ray of the area after the clip has been inserted to check the position.

Will it hurt?

Local anaesthetic may cause stinging before it numbs the breast, but this should only last a few seconds. You may feel some pressure during the procedure, but you should not feel any pain. If you do feel pain, tell the person doing the procedure.

How long will it take?

The examination should last approximately 30 minutes.

After the examination

As soon as the clip insertion has finished, we will apply firm pressure to the breast for 10 minutes to stop any bleeding and reduce the risk of bruising. A pressure dressing will then be placed over the breast area. This should stay on for 24 hours.

Please tell us if you have allergies to plasters or dressings.

- The anaesthetic will wear off after 2-3 hours.
- The breast may be sore and tender for several days. This can be relieved by taking a painkiller such as paracetamol. Avoid taking ibuprofen as this can increase any bruising or swelling.
- We recommend that you wear a non-wired supportive bra after the procedure.
- You may eat and drink as normal following the procedure and resume your normal activities, although it is advised to avoid going to the gym or heavy lifting for the next 48 hours.
- Do not allow your pressure dressing to get wet in the shower or bath for the first 24 hours.
- After 24 hours, apply a small plaster if necessary and bath/shower as usual.

Following the procedure, you will have a small scar on the skin where the clip insertion was performed.

Are there any risks or complications?

As with every medical procedure the risk must be compared to the benefit of having the procedure carried out.

The most common side effects are bruising and slight bleeding. Some patients may experience continued bleeding and swelling. In rare cases an infection can occur at the site.

If you experience any problems after your clip insertion, please contact your GP.

Feedback

Please tell us about your experience following your appointment. You can email PALs@wsh.nhs.uk

Data Protection information

West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust will manage your information in line with the General Data Protection Regulation 2018. The information you provide will be retained for the purposes of your healthcare. The information will be retained in line with the *NHS Records Management Code of Practice for Health & Social care*.

You have rights in relation to the way we process your information. If you no longer want us to use your information for the purposes specified above; if you want to request to have your information erased or rectified, please contact the Information Governance team on 01284 713454 or email info.gov@wsh.nhs.uk

We will review all requests in relation to your rights under GDPR, along with our responsibilities for record keeping.

Images may be used for research purposes as well as teaching. Patients must inform a member of staff if they do not consent to this.

As part of a shared service agreement with other NHS organisations, your radiology images and records may be shared with these other organisations as part of determining and providing your care. If you would like to know more about the extent of this sharing, or you wish us not to share at all with another organisation, or have any other concerns about it, please contact a member of staff.

Further information can be found at: [Protecting your information \(GDPR\) \(wsh.nhs.uk\)](#)

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>



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