

Patient information

Punch biopsy

What is a punch biopsy

A punch biopsy is taken of an abnormal area of the breast skin or areola to determine a diagnosis.

Before the procedure

There are no eating and drinking restrictions.

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

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 a diagnosis. The skin will be cleaned, local anaesthetic will be used to numb the area this takes effect quickly.

A sample is taken from the numb area using a special needle. Steristrips will be applied followed by a small dressing.

After the procedure

The dressing should remain in place for 24 hours, the steristrips to remain for 5 days.

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

Do not lift anything heavy for 24 hours.

You will be given an appointment to come back and discuss the results.

We try to ensure no one waits more than a week for results of biopsies, but occasionally there may be a delay. You will be contacted if this is the case.

Risks or side effects

The most common side effects are bruising and discomfort when the local anaesthetic has worn off. Occasionally the wound can bleed. Regular paracetamol is advised but avoid aspirin as this could encourage bleeding.

If you have any concerns please contact the

Breast Care Nurses

Monday to Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm

Telephone: 01284 713281

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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