



What you should know

Your doctor has recommended that you have a breast biopsy because a suspicious area was seen on your mammogram. This is a simple procedure performed in the office by our team of breast imaging specialists.

During the biopsy, a small sample of tissue will be collected from the suspicious area. The tissue samples will be sent to a pathologist, a physician specializing in the analysis of tissue samples under a microscope. The pathologist will provide the biopsy results to your physician, who will review them with you. This outpatient procedure requires minimal preparation and recovery time.

It is likely that your procedure will be performed using one of the three primary imaging systems common in breast biopsy: ultrasound, X-ray or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

Please contact our office if you have questions about this procedure.



Early Detection. Confident Diagnosis.

Early detection and a fast, accurate diagnosis is the key to overcoming breast cancer.

That's why our center is proud to offer advanced breast biopsy technology from Hologic to aid in the diagnosis of breast cancer.



Breast Biopsy What you should know

Transforming breast care

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FAQs

Before Your Procedure

In advance of your biopsy procedure, you should inform your doctor of any medications and vitamins you are currently taking - either prescription or over-the-counter. Your doctor may advise you to stop taking certain medications prior to your scheduled biopsy.

You may also be advised to wear loose clothing for comfort and not to wear deodorant or perfume. Most patients are able to eat and drink normally and perform their typical daily activities before arriving for their breast biopsy.

During Your Procedure

On the day of the procedure you will be asked to undress and will be given a gown to wear. Depending on the imaging system used to help guide your biopsy, you may have your breast compressed similar to a mammogram, or a gel may be applied if your physician is using ultrasound imaging. If you are having an MRI-guided biopsy, you will have an IV inserted into your arm so that a contrast agent can be used to see small details in the breast. After you have been properly positioned for your biopsy, your breast will be imaged and the area to be biopsied located. Your

skin will be cleansed with sterilizing solution and numbed with anesthetic. A very small skin nick will then be made to make it easier for the biopsy needle to enter the breast.

Typically, multiple tissue samples will be collected through the single skin nick. A final set of images may then be taken to verify that the appropriate tissue was collected. Your physician may place a small marker (smaller than a piece of rice) at the biopsy site to make it easy to find the exact location of the biopsy in the future. The marker is made of a metallic alloy, such as titanium or stainless steel, and you will not be able to feel or notice the marker after it has been placed.

After Your Procedure

Pressure will be applied to your breast for a few minutes. A small bandage will be placed over the skin nick and you may be provided with an ice pack to apply over the biopsy site. In some instances, a compression wrap bandage may be placed around your chest to minimize chances of swelling or bruising.

Your doctor may prescribe a non-aspirin pain reliever to help alleviate any possible discomfort. Detailed instructions will also be provided on how to care for the biopsied area. Most women can resume normal daily activities immediately following their procedure.

Q: How much of the breast tissue or lump will be removed?

A: Only a small sampling of tissue will be taken from the suspicious area.

Q: How long will the biopsy take?

A: Biopsy times vary depending on each patient's situation. Typically, the total time in the doctor's office for a biopsy is 45 - 60 minutes from the time you enter the exam room until the time you leave. This includes the time it takes for the doctor to remove tissue samples, which is usually less than one minute.

Q: Will I experience any pain during the procedure?

A: Each patient is different, but you might feel a slight sting or pinch when the anesthetic is first being administered to your breast. Numbing the breast prior to the biopsy should make the rest of the procedure as pain-free as possible.

Q: How will I feel after the procedure?

A: Your breast may be slightly tender and you may experience some bruising at the biopsy site. Typically, most women can resume many of their normal activities the same day as the procedure. Your doctor will advise you of post-biopsy procedure care.

Please call our office if you have questions about this procedure.

