



## **BREAST ASPIRATION UNDER ULTRASOUND GUIDANCE**

An aspiration is when small amounts of fluid are removed for testing. Mammograms and ultrasounds produce pictures that are very detailed. Sometimes small lumps suggestive of a cyst can be seen through these pictures before your doctor can feel it. An aspiration allows us to test fluid samples from areas of the breast without performing surgery.

A radiologist (doctor who specializes in reading x-rays) will perform your procedure. A trained sonographer will assist the radiologist. The entire procedure takes about one hour.

You will be asked to remove all clothing from the waist up and wear a hospital gown. The sonographer will help to position you on a stretcher in the ultrasound room, and your skin will be cleaned, and then frozen with local anesthetic. You may feel a stinging sensation for a moment, but should feel little or no discomfort during the procedure.

The radiologist will use an aspiration needle through the skin to insert into the cyst and pull the fluid into a syringe. The sonographer will be assisting with an ultrasound probe on your skin for the radiologist to view the needle as it is inserted. Sometimes, the radiologist will put a small amount of air back into the cyst to see it better. When sufficient fluid has been collected, a band-aid and possibly an ice pack will be applied to your skin. The tissue samples may be sent to the lab for testing. The radiologist may require that a mammography image be done after the procedure.

The majority of patients tolerate this procedure with minimal side-effects. You may experience a small amount of bleeding, tingling sensations or discomfort as the freezing wears off, and or bruising.

As stated, risks are minimal but may include:

Infection (contact your doctor if you experience excessive swelling, bleeding, have fluid draining from the wound, redness or heat to the breast post biopsy)