



Breast Core Biopsy Under Ultrasound Guidance

A core biopsy is when small amounts of breast tissue are removed for testing. Mammograms and ultrasound produce pictures that are very detailed. Sometimes small lumps and tissue problems can be seen through these pictures before your doctor can feel it. A biopsy allows us to test tissue 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 1 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 a biopsy needle through the skin to take several tissue samples. The sonographer will be assisting with an ultrasound probe on your skin for the radiologist to view the needle as it is inserted. When sufficient samples have been collected, a bandaid and ice pack will be applied to your skin. The tissue samples will be sent to the lab for testing.

Occasionally, the radiologist may place a titanium clip into your breast to mark a biopsy site for future reference. If this is done, a post biopsy mammography image may be required.

The majority of patients tolerate this procedure with minimal side-effects. You may experience a small amount of bleeding, tingling sensation or discomfort as the freezing wears off, and or bruising. An ice pack should be applied to the biopsy site every 1-2 hours for 10 minutes at a time. Avoid any physically demanding movements of the arm on the side of the biopsy for 24 hours after the procedure. There are no dietary restrictions.

As stated, risks are minimal but may include:

- Bruising
- Bleeding from the nipple (usually a small amount)
- Infection (contact your doctor if you experience excessive swelling, bleeding, have fluid draining from the wound, redness or heat to the breast post biopsy)
- Pneumothorax (rare)