



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)