

Taking a sample of your breast using a needle guided by hand (freehand core biopsy)

Breast Imaging

Information for Patients

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Introduction

You have had a mammogram or ultrasound scan of the breast and we have found an abnormal area. We will need to do more tests to find out what this is.

We will need a sample (biopsy) of the abnormal breast tissue. We will look at it under a microscope. There are many types of breast biopsy procedures. The type of biopsy that you have will depend on where it is and size of the area.

What is a freehand core biopsy?

This is when we take a sample of your breast tissue. We do this using a needle that is guided by hand. This is known as a freehand core biopsy. We use this method when the abnormality, often a lump, can be felt by hand in the breast tissue. The needle used is called a core—needle. This type of needle is used when a 'core' (meaning 'hollow') needle is needed to remove breast tissue.

This will take 15 to 30 minutes to do. You may eat and drink normally before it.

What are the benefits?

This biopsy method is less invasive than a surgical biopsy. It leaves little or no scarring.

The results from the biopsy can show if the abnormal area is a cancer or another condition that may need treatment. A large number of abnormalities turn out to be non-cancerous (benign), with no risk to your health.

**Health information and support is available at www.nhs.uk
or call 111 for non-emergency medical advice**

Visit www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk for maps and information about visiting Leicester's Hospitals
To give feedback about this information sheet, contact InformationForPatients@uhl-tr.nhs.uk

Are there any risks?

- **Bruising:** about 1 in 10 patients will have bruising after a biopsy. This risk is minimised by a member of the team pressing firmly on the area after the biopsy.
- **Bleeding:** some bleeding is expected with a biopsy. Heavy bleeding can happen in about 1 in 100 patients. This risk is low. We will press on the site after the biopsy to stop any bleeding that may happen.
- **Infection:** any procedure where the skin is broken carries a risk of infection. The risk of infection with this biopsy is 1 in 10,000 patients. We try our best to keep this risk as low as possible.
- **Pain:** we make the area numb with local anaesthetic. The local anaesthetic injection may sting a little bit, but then you should not feel any pain from the biopsy. It is normal to feel pressure and movement during the procedure. As the local anaesthetic wears off (after a few hours) we recommend taking paracetamol for any pain or discomfort.

How is the procedure done?

1. We will ask you to remove your clothing from the waist up. You will not need to remove clothing below your waist. We may ask you to wear a hospital gown.
2. During the procedure you will lie on your back or side on a couch.
3. Once you are comfortable, we will thoroughly clean the area. We will give you local anaesthetic to numb area.
4. We will make a small cut in the skin. This is where we will insert the needle. The biopsy needle will make a clicking sound. We may take more than one sample.
5. We will send the samples to the laboratory to be looked at under a microscope.

Aftercare

- After the sample has been collected, we will press firmly on your breast until any bleeding stops. We will then put a dressing on.
- Please leave the dressing in place and dry for 24 hours.
- Do not do any tiring activity, exercise or heavy lifting for the rest of the day. Other than this you can carry on with your normal routine.
- You will be able to drive the same day.
- If you have any bleeding from the site, apply firm pressure over the dressing for 10 to 15 minutes. If steri-strips have been put over the site, let these fall off by themselves.



When will I get the results?

We will give you a follow-up appointment for your results. This will normally be within 2 weeks. If the results are not ready, we may have to contact you to change your appointment at short notice.

Contact details

If you have any questions, please contact the nurses at Breast Care Nurses on **0116 250 2513** from:

- Monday to Thursday, 9am to 4.30pm
- Friday, 9am to 4pm

An answerphone service is available on this number. Messages are only listened to during working hours.

If you need advice outside of these hours please contact:

- your on-call GP
- NHS helpline on **111** (24 hours)
- Ward 24, Leicester Royal Infirmary (Monday to Friday, 24 hours) **0116 250 2490**
- Surgical Admissions Unit (weekends and bank holidays) **0116 258 5332**

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی اور زبان میں درکار ہیں، تو براہ کرم مندرجہ ذیل نمبر پر ٹیلی فون کریں۔
على هذه المعلومات بلغةٍ أخرى، الرجاء الاتصال على رقم الهاتف الذي يظهر في الأسفل

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Aby uzyskać informacje w innym języku, proszę zadzwonić pod podany niżej numer telefonu

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