

CORE BIOPSY OF THE BREAST / AXILLA

WHAT IS CORE BIOPSY OF THE BREAST/ AXILLA

This leaflet is designed to give you information regarding the procedure known as a core biopsy of the breast / axilla. It explains what is involved and what the benefits and risks are. It may make think of things that you wish to discuss further with your doctor.

WHAT IS A CORE BIOPSY?

A core biopsy is performed when an abnormality is seen on your mammogram or ultrasound. A special needle is used to retrieve a tissue sample from the breast or axilla.

During your appointment.

If you need a core biopsy you will be informed by your clinician who will explain the procedure to you and ask for your consent.

If you agree to the procedure you will be asked questions about your medical history including any medicines you are taking and any allergies you may have. (It is important to inform the clinician if you are taking medicine that thins your blood e.g. Aspirin, Warfarin, Clopidogrel etc).

The area that needs to be biopsied will be rescanned and the clinician will clean the area and then inject some local anaesthetic. A small incision (5 mm) is made in the skin through which the biopsy needle is inserted. The clinician usually takes more than one sample to make sure the laboratory have enough tissue to test.



Following the procedure your wound will be dressed with steri- strips and a water resistant dressing which needs to stay in place for 3 days. Please keep the dressing dry.

Your biopsy will be sent to the laboratory for testing which usually takes 5-7 days. An appointment to receive your results will be given to you by the breast consultant and not by the radiology department.

Care following your procedure

You may eat and drink as normal.

We advise that you do not participate in any strenuous activity for at least 24 hours, to allow the biopsy site to heal. You may get some bruising; this will resolve over time.

If you experience pain when the local anaesthetic has worn off you can take simple pain relief such as paracetamol which is usually sufficient (avoid aspirin as this has a blood thinning effect and may encourage bleeding or worsen the bruising).

If there is a problem

Please contact the radiology department on 0161 922 6305, Monday to Friday, 9 am to 5 pm, if you need advice.

If following your biopsy you experience shortness of breath or uncontrolled coughing, you should attend your local A&E department immediately and inform them you have had a core biopsy of your breast/ axilla.

If you suspect that the wound has become infected i.e. redness, swelling, offensive discharge etc. contact your GP for advice and/or treatment.

If significant bleeding occurs after your biopsy apply compression to your breast until it stops.

If you experience pain when the local anaesthetic has worn off you can take simple pain relief such as paracetamol which is usually sufficient (avoid Aspirin as this has a blood thinning effect and may encourage bleeding or worsen bruising).

If you feel you need urgent medical attention or are worried about anything outside of our normal opening hours, please contact your GP or go to your nearest accident and emergency (A&E) department.



What happens if I can't keep my appointment?

If you are unable to keep your appointment, please contact the breast radiology department straight away on 0161 922 6305.

If you are admitted to hospital before your appointment, please tell the ward staff that you have a breast biopsy appointment booked.

ANY QUESTIONS

If you have any questions about the procedure, please ring 0161 922 6426, Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm, or write your questions in this box and bring this leaflet with you.

SOURCE

In compiling this information leaflet, a number of recognised professional bodies including NHS Direct and accredited good practice guidelines have been used.



Language, Interpretation and Patient Support Service (LIPS):

If you require an interpreter to assist your appointment, please ask an appropriate family member to contact our central booking office between **Monday to Friday 8am to 5pm** on **0161 922 6991** to arrange this for you.

語言 翻譯及病者支持服務 (LIPS)

如果閣下需要翻譯員在您的預約當日幫助您的話 請找一名合適的家庭成員 **0161 922 6991** 聯絡本中央預約辦事處來您您安排 我們的辦公時間是星期一至星期五 上午 8 時至下午 5 時

Językowo Tłumaczeniowa Usługa Pomocy dla Pacjenta (Language, Interpretation and Patient Support Service LIPS):

Jeśli potrzebujesz pomocy tłumacza w trakcie swojej wizyty, proszę poprosić odpowiedniego członka rodziny o skontaktowanie się z Centralnym Biurem Zamówień (*Central Booking Office*), w celu zorganizowania tłumacza pomiędzy poniedziałkiem a piątkiem w godzinach od **08:00 - 17:00** pod numerem **0161 922 6991**.

لیٹگوئج، انٹریپریٹیشن سپورٹ سروس (Lips)

اگر آپ کو اپنی اپائنٹمنٹ کے لئے مترجم کی مدد کی ضرورت ہو تو براہ مہربانی اپنے خاندان کے کسی موزوں فرد سے کہیں کہ وہ ہمارے سنٹرل بینک آفس سے پیر سے جمعہ 8.00 بجے صبح سے 5.00 بجے شام کے دوران 0161 922 6991 پر فون کر کے اس کا بندوبست کریں۔

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