

Stereotactic Core Needle Breast Biopsy

What is a stereotactic core needle breast biopsy?

A stereotactic core needle breast biopsy uses computer-guided imagery to precisely position a biopsy needle within the breast. During this procedure, the radiologist will remove a sample of breast tissue. This sample is sent to a pathologist for evaluation.

How should I prepare for the biopsy?

- You may drink and eat a light meal before the procedure, unless you are scheduled for another procedure the same day that requires you to not eat or drink anything. Be aware of all preparation instructions for all procedures.
- Bring a list of your medications.
- Leave jewelry and valuables at home.
- Plan to be in the examination area for at least 2 hours.

Before the procedure begins, is there anything I should tell the nurse or technologist?

Tell the nurse and/or the radiology technologist if you:

- Are allergic to local anesthetic (Xylocaine®, Novocain®), adhesive tape, antiseptic soap and/or latex
- Are pregnant
- Have significant neck and back pain
- Have respiratory problems such as cough, difficulty breathing and/or a need for oxygen
- Are taking aspirin, ibuprofen, Coumadin®, Heparin, Plavix®, ginkgo biloba, vitamin E or other blood thinners.
- Have had recent abdominal or chest surgery

What can I expect during the procedure?

- A staff member will bring you into a dressing/consultation room. You will remove your clothes from the waist up and put on a patient gown with the opening to the front.
- You will be given alcohol and gauze. Use them to wipe under the arm and around the breast to remove any deodorant, powder, or lotion from your skin.
- The nurse will check your blood pressure, heart rate, and temperature.
- The nurse, PA and/or the radiologist will explain the procedure. The radiologist will answer all your questions and address your concerns. You will be asked to sign a consent form stating that you understand the procedure with the risks and benefits explained to your satisfaction.

Patient Education

Robert and Margaret Hill Breast Center



- Together, the technologist and the radiologist will make sure that you are positioned safely and comfortably.
- Your breast will be compressed and immobilized.
- The area to be biopsied will be centered in the window of a specially designed compression paddle.
- The technologist will ask you to remain still.
- You will be asked to stop breathing for a few seconds while the images or pictures are taken.
- The radiologist will administer a local anesthetic and then make a ¼ inch skin incision so that the biopsy needle can be guided easily into your breast. Because enough local anesthesia is used, the procedure is painless for most women. You may feel some vibration or pressure when the actual samples are taken.
- Using the computer images as a guide, the radiologist will obtain several tissue samples through the needle.
- A tiny clip made of titanium, or surgical stainless steel, may be inserted through the biopsy needle. This marks the area being sampled.
- After the biopsy is completed the technologist will apply gauze and manual firm pressure on the biopsy site to stop any bleeding.
- Skin glue will be applied to close the incision.
- A 2-view mammogram will be taken to document the clip placement.

Should you have any questions or need to speak with our scheduling department, please call (904) 202-2499.

Adapted from Stereotactic Core Needle Breast Biopsy, Revised 8/30/16
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center ©2004 Revised
12/2010, Patient Education 1920, Reviewed 12/18/2020