

DIAGNOSTIC BREAST BIOPSY: TYPE OF BIOPSIES

A surgical breast biopsy requires an incision in the skin. This allows your doctor to take a large sample of tissue from the breast. In fact, the whole lump is often removed. The sample is then sent to a lab for study.

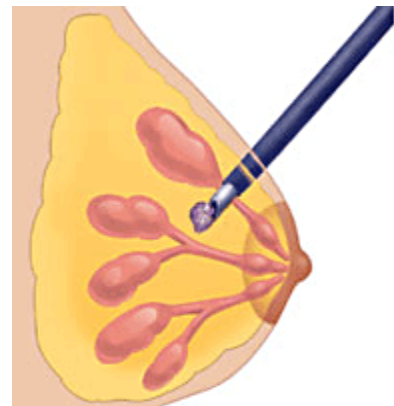
STEREOTACTIC BREAST BIOPSY

Stereotactic breast biopsy is used to take tiny samples of your breast tissue that can be studied under a microscope. This procedure uses mammogram or sonogram to find the tissue to be removed. It may prevent the need for an open (surgical) biopsy. A small metal clip may be inserted into the breast to mark the site of biopsy in case the biopsy proves cancerous and additional surgery is required.

ULTRASOUND GUIDED CORE BIOPSY/MRI GUIDED BIOPSY

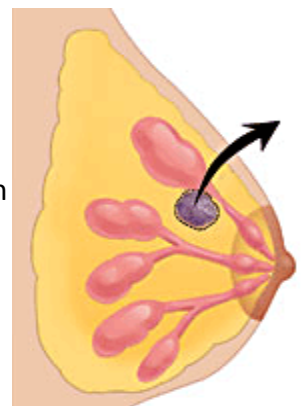
Lumps or abnormalities in the breast are often detected by physical examination, mammography, or other imaging studies. However, it is not always possible to tell from these imaging tests whether a growth is benign or cancerous.

A breast biopsy is performed to remove some cells through a less invasive procedure involving a hollow needle from a suspicious area in the breast and examine them under microscope to determine a diagnosis. Image-guided needle biopsy is not designed to remove the entire lesion, but most of a very small lesion may be removed in the process of the biopsy.



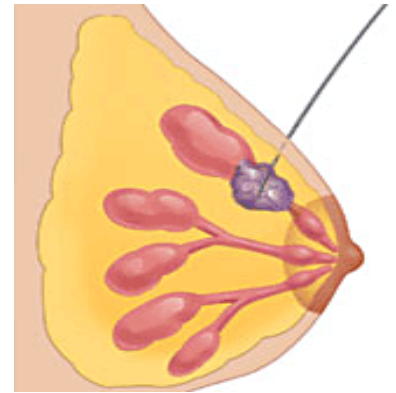
EXCISIONAL SURGICAL BIOPSY

Open surgical biopsy removes a tissue sample through a skin incision. To keep you from feeling pain during the biopsy, you are likely to be given intravenous sedation. This produces a light sleep. Your surgeon then makes one incision in your breast. If possible, this is done in a way that hides the scar. In most cases, all of the lump is removed. The incision is closed with stitches. Some stitches dissolve on their own. Others may need to be removed when the incision heals.



NEEDLE (WIRE) LOCALIZATION

A lump that can't be felt may be hard to locate. In such a case, one or more guide wires may be placed in your breast before biopsy surgery. These thin wires help mark the tissue that is to be removed. A mammogram or ultrasound is used to direct the wire's placement. Then you're taken to the operating room for surgery. The wire is removed during the biopsy.



AFTER YOUR BIOPSY

Prior to your biopsy, you should have scheduled an appointment to be seen in our office 5 to 7 days after your biopsy. If for some reason that appointment was not scheduled, please call our office at (703) 359-8640 as soon as you return home.

BIOPSY RESULTS

Waiting for your biopsy results is never easy. But you will know your results within days. You may get the results during a follow up visit with your provider. Or your provider may call you with the results. Either way, your provider will discuss what the lab results mean for you.

UNDERSTANDING THE RISKS

Risks that may occur with surgical biopsy include;

- Excessive bleeding or bruising
- Infection
- Problems from the anesthesia
- Poor wound healing
- Change in breast shape
- Failure to remove entire lesion
- False-negative result

PLEASE CALL US IF ANY PROBLEMS OR QUESTIONS ARISE. WE CAN BE REACHED ANY TIME, INCLUDING EVENINGS AND WEEKENDS, BY CALLING OUR OFFICE NUMBER (703) 359-8640.