

## What You Should Know

Your doctor has recommended that you have a breast biopsy to collect a small sample of tissue that will be sent to pathology for testing and diagnosis. This outpatient procedure is easy with minimal preparation and recovery time. You can be confident that your biopsy will provide quality results to ensure the most accurate diagnosis possible.

It is likely that your procedure will be performed using one of the three primary imaging systems common in breast biopsy: ultrasound, stereotactic x-ray or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

## What To Expect

Your biopsy will be performed in an outpatient setting. The entire procedure takes place in five easy steps:

1. Numbing of the breast with medicine
2. Imaging the breast to identify the biopsy area
3. Inserting a small needle into your breast to retrieve the tissue samples
4. Remove the small amount of tissue
5. Placing a small marker to identify the biopsy site

Depending on the imaging system used to help guide your biopsy, you may have your breast compressed similar to a mammogram, or a gel may be applied if your physician is using ultrasound imaging.

*Note: If you are having an MRI-guided breast biopsy procedure, you will have an IV inserted into your arm so that a contrast agent can be used to see small details in the breast tissue.*

## Before Your Procedure

There is no special preparation required in advance of your biopsy procedure. You may want to wear loose clothing for comfort. You may eat or drink what you normally do and perform your typical daily activities before arriving for your breast biopsy.

You should inform your doctor in advance of any medications you are currently taking whether prescription or over-the-counter. This includes aspirin, ibuprofen, blood thinners such as Coumadin, natural herbs, Vitamin E and other vitamins. Some of these medications must be temporarily stopped several days prior to your biopsy.



## During Your Procedure

After you have been properly positioned for your biopsy, your breast will be imaged and the area to be biopsied located. Your skin will be cleansed with antiseptic and numbed. Sometimes, a very small skin nick is made to help the biopsy needle enter the breast with ease. You may feel some pressure, but most women report no pain.

The biopsy procedure will take a very short time. Multiple tissue samples will be collected. A final set of images may be taken and your physician may place a marker at the biopsy site for future reference to identify the exact location of the biopsy. The marker is made of titanium and poses no health or safety risk. You will not be able to feel or notice the marker after placement.

## After Your Procedure

Pressure will be applied to your breast for a few minutes. A small bandage will be placed over the skin nick and you may be provided with an ice pack to apply over the biopsy site. In some instances, a compression wrap bandage may be placed around your chest to minimize chances of swelling or bruising.

Your doctor may prescribe a non-aspirin pain reliever to help alleviate any possible discomfort and detailed instructions will be provided. Most women can resume normal daily activities immediately following their procedure. Your doctor will contact you after receiving your biopsy results and then instruct you on any follow-up care that may be necessary.

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: How much of the breast tissue or lump will be removed?**

**A:** Physicians will only take the necessary amount of tissue samples.

**Q: How long will the biopsy take?**

**A:** Biopsy times vary. Typically, taking a total of 60 minutes from the time you enter the exam room to the time you leave. The actual biopsy time is less than one minute.

**Q: Will I have a scar?**

**A:** Most women do not experience any permanent scarring.

**Q: Will I experience any pain during the procedure?**

**A:** You might feel a slight sting or pinch when the numbing medication is being inserted into the breast. Numbing the breast prior to the biopsy causes the rest of the procedure to be pain free.

**Q: What possible side effects should I know about?**

**A:** Your breast may be slightly tender and you may experience some mild bruising at the biopsy site; however, most women can resume normal daily activities the same day as the procedure. Consult your physician for post-procedure biopsy care.

Early Detection • Confident Diagnosis

# Breast Biopsy

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

## Early Detection is the Key

More than 80% of breast biopsies are normal. Early detection through regular mammograms, improved screening methods and practicing monthly breast self exams are saving thousands of lives every year.

This center uses the most advanced technology available to aid in the detection and diagnosis of breast cancer. The Suros ATEC® system from Hologic will be used for your biopsy and has been designed to make this procedure as comfortable as possible for you, while producing superior clinical results.



For additional information on breast health, call the American Cancer Society at 1.800.ACS.2345 or visit [www.hologic.com](http://www.hologic.com).

A BETTER WAY TO DETECT  
POSSIBLE BREAST DISEASE.