

Stereotactic guided core biopsy

Radiology department



01935 384 576
yeovilhospital.nhs.uk

Why do I need this done?

Your mammogram or ultrasound has highlighted an area in your breast which needs further investigation and as this area cannot be felt, more specialist procedures are necessary.

If abnormal cells are found, an operation is usually necessary. However, if only normal cells or tissue are found, an operation may be avoided.

Before this procedure, please tell the doctor if you are:

- Allergic to local anaesthetic
or
- On treatment with aspirin or warfarin

What is a core biopsy?

Using a needle we take a small sample of tissue from your breast. This is then examined by a pathologist, who will be able to diagnose the problem.

How is it done?

1. We will ask you to sit in a chair for this procedure
2. We will position your breast in a machine as we do for a mammogram. You will feel squeezing of your breast, which should not be too uncomfortable
3. X-rays will be taken. These together with a computer, will aid the doctor to identify the area of your breast concerning us. It is important at this stage to sit very still
4. We inject a local anaesthetic into the area of your breast to numb the surrounding skin and tissue
5. We will then make a small cut in the skin and insert a special biopsy needle and take several samples of tissue. The needle makes a loud clicking noise but you should feel no pain

6. When we withdraw the needle from the breast, we will press on the area for a short time. Tiny adhesive strips (called steristrips) are then placed on the wound and covered with a small dressing

What happens after the procedure?

You may feel some discomfort. If so, you can take some simple pain relief, eg. paracetamol. NB. Do not take aspirin or aspirin-based products.

You may notice some bruising but usually this does not cause a problem.

What about the dressing?

Keep all the dressings on for three to four days.

When will I get my results?

Before you leave the hospital you will need to make an appointment at the Breast Clinic for the following week to get your results.

Please do not hesitate to ask any questions, either before, during or after the examination.

More information

Radiology Department

Between 9am and 5pm

01935 384 576

Mammographer

01935 384 351

Breast Care Nurses

01935 384 352

If you would like this leaflet in another format or in a different language, please ask a member of staff.

