

# BREAST BIOPSY

## Patient Information and Preparation

### What is image-guided Breast Biopsy?

Compared to a lumpectomy or fine-needle aspiration, Stereotactic Breast Biopsy (or Image-guided Breast Biopsy) may be less stressful, with minimal risk of complications. A breast biopsy can help a doctor make a highly accurate diagnosis of a breast abnormality without the need for open surgery.

### Image-guided Breast Biopsy:

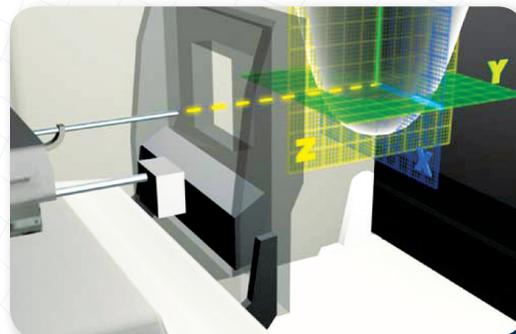
- Is a type of core biopsy that uses a special needle with a vacuum attachment to extract tissue.
- Uses digital mammography for accurate placement of the needle.
- Evaluates calcium deposits and tiny abnormal masses seen on a mammogram.

### What should I do to prepare for a Breast Biopsy?

- Wear comfortable clothes with a separate top and bottom.
- Do not wear talcum powder, deodorant, lotion or perfume at the location of the biopsy.
- Remove all jewelry.
- A North Oaks staff member will review your medications prior to your procedure. You may be required to stop taking some blood thinning medications 5 days prior to the procedure with your physician's approval.
- If you are currently on warfarin therapy, please have your physician contact the Radiology nursing staff to make arrangements to safely schedule your biopsy.
- Bring a sports bra or another very supportive bra.
- If you are prescribed anti-anxiety medication from your physician to take prior to the procedure, please delay taking the medication until after you have completed the necessary paperwork and consent forms at the hospital. Plan to arrive 1 hour prior to your exam time in order to complete these steps.

### Conditions to let your doctor know about:

- Allergic to any medications or anesthetics
- Currently taking blood thinning medication
- Currently pregnant
- Heart valve replacement
- Mitral valve prolapse
- Personal history of bleeding
- Taking medications regularly
- Taking aspirin or medications that contain aspirin



Detailed imaging focused on *you.*

### What can I expect during a Breast Biopsy?

You will be asked to arrive 1 hour prior to your exam time to fill out a brief medical history questionnaire and consent forms. The radiologist performing the procedure will review this information with you and answer any questions you may have. You will be asked to change into a gown. A technologist will position you on the table lying on your stomach. Your breast will be positioned through an opening in the table and will be moderately compressed between two plates (similar to a mammogram). A computerized mammography machine will take images from multiple angles to determine the exact location of the abnormality within the breast. The radiologist uses this information to determine where the biopsy needle should be inserted.

The site of the biopsy will be cleansed and numbed to minimize pain. There may be a stinging sensation when the local anesthetic is administered. A small incision will be made in the skin. The radiologist will then carefully insert a biopsy needle through the incision until it is next to the abnormal tissue. Additional digital mammograms are taken so the radiologist can check the placement of the needle. The biopsy is then performed to sample the tissue. After enough tissue has been collected, the biopsy device will be removed. During the biopsy, our radiologists and technologists will be happy to answer questions about the procedure. If you feel any pain or discomfort during the procedure, notify your nurse.

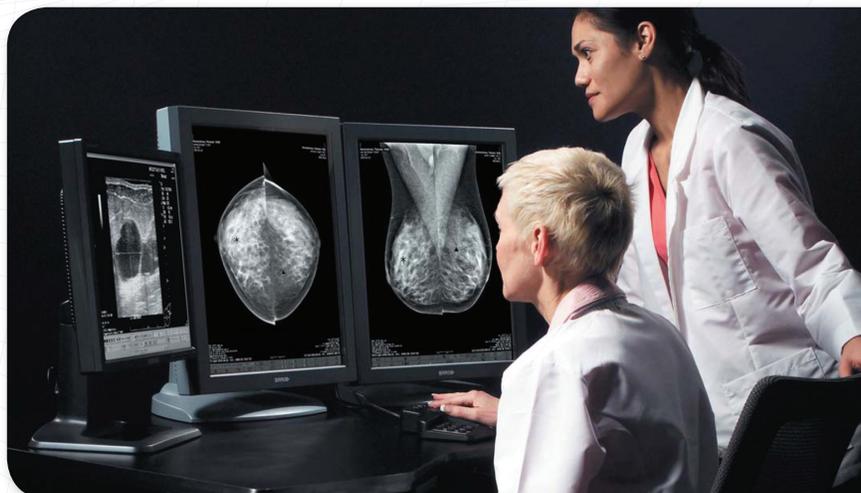
Most of the abnormal tissue is frequently removed during the biopsy, leaving no visible landmarks to identify the problem area. Therefore, a tiny marker (2 mm in size) will be placed at the site where tissue was removed. Pressure will be applied to the breast for approximately 10 minutes after marker insertion. A light touch mammogram will be done to confirm the removal of abnormal tissue and to ensure that the marker is visible and in the correct location. The marker cannot be felt, will not set off metal detectors and does not interfere with MRI exams.

The incision is then cleaned and taped and a pressure dressing is applied. Following the procedure, you may get dressed. While the actual procedure/biopsy time is approximately 30-45 minutes, you can expect the entire process from check-in to departure to take approximately 3 hours. You may return to normal activity within 24 hours.

### What should I expect after the Breast Biopsy?

Your tissue sample will be sent to the laboratory so a pathologist can examine it. Patients should make a follow up appointment with their referring physician in order to obtain results.

If cancer is found and more tissue must be removed from the breast, the marker will help your surgeon identify the specific area where tissue should be removed. This can minimize the amount of healthy tissue removed from the breast during surgery. If surgery is not necessary, the marker will show up on future mammograms to let the radiologist know where the biopsy was done.



**For more information about Breast Biopsy, please contact the North Oaks Radiology Department at (985) 230-7270. If you have any questions about your appointment, please call Patient Scheduling at the number listed below.**

If you cannot make your scheduled appointment, we ask that you notify North Oaks Patient Scheduling at (985) 230-7777 in Hammond or (225) 686-4899 in Livingston at least 24 hours in advance.

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