



MRI Breast Biopsy-

Your physician has recommended an MRI Guided Breast Biopsy. A biopsy is a procedure that obtains tissue from an abnormal area in your breast. An MRI Breast Biopsy is performed in the MRI Department by a radiologist specializing in this procedure.

After the biopsy, the tissue is examined by a pathologist to see whether it is cancer or not. *Fortunately, most breast biopsies are not cancer; they are benign, and those that are cancer are often found at an early stage and can be successfully treated.*

Before the biopsy

When your physician discusses the need for a biopsy with you, you should tell the physician if you have a bleeding disorder or if you are taking any medication that could cause bleeding, such as blood thinners like Coumadin.

You should not take aspirin, Advil, or Motrin-like products for 3 days before and 2 days after the biopsy. Remember that many commonly used pain and arthritis medications contain aspirin. If you are unsure whether a pill you are taking contains aspirin or an aspirin-like product, ask your pharmacist, physician or nurse. If you are taking any of these medications for a medical reason or your physician prescribed them, be sure to discuss this with your physician.

In addition, a number of herbs and alternative medicines can cause bleeding. Therefore, if you are taking garlic, ginko biloba, fish oil, vitamin E or other supplements, consult your pharmacist, physician or nurse.

The biopsy will take about an hour to perform; however, you should plan on being in the MRI Department for about 2 hours. After the biopsy, you should wear a bra that gives you firm support.

If you have a history of anxiety attacks or claustrophobia, and will require medication for this procedure, please let your doctor know. It is important that you be able to lie still for the duration of the biopsy.

How is the procedure performed?

When you arrive in the MRI Department you will register at MRI reception and complete a consent form for the procedure. You will meet with the Radiologist to discuss the exam and answer any of your questions. You will need to put on a gown. The MRI technologist will insert an intravenous (IV) line into a vein in your hand or arm for the contrast material, gadolinium, to be given intravenously during the procedure.

For the MRI Breast Biopsy you will lie on your stomach with your breast positioned in the MRI coil. The Technologist will position you as comfortable as possible.

The abnormality will be localized using enhanced MRI images. After the finding is localized, your skin will be cleaned with an antiseptic solution and numbed using local anesthesia. A small incision will be made in the skin and through that a biopsy needle will be placed. After confirming the correct position of the needle using additional MRI pictures, suction is applied to the needle and small pieces of tissue will be shaved off and collected for microscopic evaluation by a pathologist. A small metal marker will be deposited to mark the tissue that was biopsied.

Once the biopsy is complete, pressure will be applied to stop any bleeding and the opening in the skin is covered with a dressing. No sutures are needed.

After the biopsy

- The Radiologist or Technologist will tell you how to care for the wound. You will be given an ice pack to wear inside your bra. When you arrive home, you may make an ice pack by placing crushed ice or frozen peas in a plastic sandwich bag.
- You will be given written instructions on how to care for your breast after the biopsy.
- Before you leave, the Radiologist or Technologist will tell you how and when you will get the results of the biopsy.
- Please bring or have someone available to drive you home. You will also need to be accompanied to the mammography Department for mammograms after your biopsy.