

# Breast Biopsy

## Clinic Procedure (Core Biopsy)

### Definitions:

**Local Anesthesia-** anesthesia that numbs only the area where the anesthesia medication is injected or placed. .

**Biopsy:** A procedure in which tissue samples are removed from the body for examination under a microscope to find out if cancer or other abnormal cells are present.

### Goal of Procedure:

A 'core' breast biopsy is performed when a physician feels a lump and determines that it should be sampled and evaluated under a microscope.

### Overview of Procedure:

The core biopsy procedure is done in the clinic room and can be done by a physician, nurse practitioner or physician's assistant. A local anesthetic is used to numb the area of your breast to be biopsied. This anesthetic is injected into the biopsy area using a very small needle.

Once the area is numb, a small puncture is made in the breast tissue and a special biopsy needle is inserted into the breast lump. This needle is used only for tissue sampling. The needle is used to remove several tissue samples (often multiple samples are taken from the lump area). The tissue samples are then sent to the pathology lab for examination and a small dressing is placed over the puncture site. There is no need to use sutures as the puncture site is very small.

### Length of Procedure:

The entire procedure generally takes 5-10 minutes and is done in the clinic during your appointment.

### After the Procedure:

- ◆ The dressing placed over the incision may be removed the next day. While the dressing is in place, it must stay clean and dry. You may shower the next day.
- ◆ You will be able to return home after the procedure. You should wear a supportive bra for at least 3 days after the procedure (24 hours a day). A supportive bra will help minimize pulling on the biopsy site from the weight of your breast. You may return to work and normal activity the day after the procedure. You may need to limit those activities that involve heavy lifting or strenuous arm movements, such as pushing and pulling.

- ◆ Do not be alarmed if you notice bruising around the area. This is common, and the bruise will fade.

### **Problems You May Encounter:**

Although complications are rare, they can include infection and bleeding.

**If you develop the following notify the surgical nurses at the numbers on the phone sheet attached during business hours (8am to 4pm; Monday-Friday):**

- a temperature higher than 101 degrees Fahrenheit
- bleeding that will not stop
- swelling, drainage or redness in the breast
- any unusual symptoms that concern you

**On weekends, holidays or after 4pm on weekdays, contact the page operator at (734) 936-6267.** Ask to have the On-Call Surgical Oncology Resident paged.

### **Results of the Procedure:**

The pathology results will be made available to your surgeon within 5-7 business days. Your surgeon will make arrangements for you to receive the results either by telephone or in a follow-up clinic appointment.

This document is not intended to take the place of the care and attention of your personal physician or other professional medical services. Our aim is to promote active participation in your care and treatment by providing information and education. Questions about individual health concerns or specific treatment options should be discussed with your physician.

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