

Image-Guided Breast Biopsy

This is a biopsy of the breast, sometimes under local anaesthetic. This may be performed using ultrasound guidance or technique involving mammography.

The radiologist will insert a needle to take a sample of cells, which are then sent to a pathology laboratory where a specialist pathology doctor will interpret the specimen. The pathology report will be sent to your referring doctor who will then convey these results to you.

Preparation

It is essential that any previous mammogram and ultrasound films be available at the time of booking the biopsy. Also ensure that you bring these with you to your examination.

→ ANTICOAGULANTS

If you take blood thinners such as Warfarin or Aspirin you may need to stop this medication prior to the procedure. Please discuss this with your doctor and inform us when you make your appointment.

→ HEART VALVE REPLACEMENT

If you have a heart valve replacement, it may be indicated to take an antibiotic cover. Please discuss this with your doctor and inform us when you make your appointment.

Procedure

The procedure may be undertaken using either ultrasound or x-rays to localise the biopsy sites.

→ ULTRASOUND-GUIDED BIOPSY

In this procedure you will be lying on your back. A small ultrasound probe will be placed on the breast to find the particular area of interest and a biopsy may be performed with a needle under local anaesthetic.

The sample(s) will be sent to Pathology for study and the Pathologist will send a report to your referring doctor. This usually takes 2-4 days.

Please contact your referring doctor to discuss the results.

How long will the procedure take?

The whole procedure will take between 30-60 minutes to complete.

After the procedure

Following the biopsy you will be asked to press firmly on the breast for 10 minutes to stop any bleeding. There will be some bruising following the biopsy. This may be quite prominent, but will always disappear. Rarely are there any significant complications such as infection or excess bleeding within the breast.

You may feel more comfortable having someone with you to drive you home, however this is not always necessary.

The biopsy site will be covered. This dressing is waterproof so you may shower normally and can remove it three to four days after the procedure.

Following the procedure there may be some discomfort. If required, a simple analgesic such as Panadol (not Aspirin) should be sufficient. You should avoid strenuous activity for 24 hours following the biopsy.

If you notice excessive bruising, swelling, bleeding, redness or heat at the biopsy site we urge you to contact the radiologist or your treating doctor.

PLEASE BRING ANY PREVIOUS X-RAYS OR SCANS WITH YOU ON THE DAY OF YOUR EXAMINATION.

CONFIRM ANY PREPARATION REQUIRED WITH STAFF WHEN MAKING YOUR APPOINTMENT.

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Your doctor may request to go filmless

With the growing use of digital imaging, Northside Medical Imaging is giving doctors the opportunity to not receive hard copy films and to replace them with electronic reports and images – in other words, go “filmless”.

If your referring doctor elects to go “filmless,” once you have completed your medical imaging examination, you will no longer have to wait for x-ray films. The images will be sent electronically to your doctor’s computer together with a report from our Radiologist. If you require films in the future, all films are stored digitally and can be requested at anytime with 24 hour notice.

BREAST BIOPSY IS PERFORMED AT OUR HORNSBY & LINDFIELD CLINICS

Northside Medical Imaging clinics

Hornsby

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Hornsby

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