

# TOMOSYNTHESIS GUIDED BIOPSY PROCEDURE

Q: What is tomosynthesis core biopsy of the breast?

A: *Tomosynthesis core biopsy is an advanced technique used to obtain tissue samples from indeterminate/suspicious calcifications or other breast abnormalities detected on a tomosynthesis mammogram. It combines the benefits of 3D mammography with a minimally invasive biopsy procedure.*

Q: Why is tomosynthesis core biopsy performed?

A: *Tomosynthesis core biopsy is performed when abnormal calcifications or other suspicious findings are identified on a tomosynthesis mammogram. It helps determine if the calcifications are benign (non-cancerous) or malignant (cancerous), providing essential information for accurate diagnosis and appropriate treatment planning.*

Q: How is tomosynthesis core biopsy performed?

A: *During the procedure, you will lie on your side or sit upright on a specially designed table. The breast that needs to be biopsied will be positioned through an opening on the table. The tomosynthesis machine will capture multiple low-dose X-ray images of the breast from different angles. A biopsy needle will be guided precisely to the target area using real-time imaging, and tissue samples will be collected for further analysis. A biopsy clip will be placed within the biopsy site.*

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Q: Does tomosynthesis core biopsy cause pain?

A: *The procedure is generally well-tolerated. Local anesthesia is used to numb the breast, reducing discomfort during the biopsy. You may experience some pressure or mild discomfort during the needle insertion, but it should not be painful. After the procedure, you may have minor soreness or bruising, which can be managed with over-the-counter pain relievers and ice packs.*

Q: How long does tomosynthesis core biopsy take?

A: The duration of the procedure varies depending on the complexity of the case. On average, it takes about 30 minutes to an hour. Additional time may be needed for preparation and post-procedure observation.

Q: Are there any risks or complications associated with tomosynthesis core biopsy?

A: *Tomosynthesis core biopsy is considered a safe procedure with minimal risks. Potential risks include bleeding, infection, bruising, and rarely nerve pain. However, these risks are rare and can be further minimized by following proper sterile techniques.*

Q: When will I receive the results of my tomosynthesis core biopsy?

A: *The collected tissue samples will be sent to a pathology laboratory for analysis. The results are typically available within a few days to a week. Your healthcare provider will discuss the results with you and provide appropriate guidance and treatment recommendations based on the findings.*

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Q: What happens if the tomosynthesis core biopsy shows cancer?

A: *If the biopsy results indicate breast cancer, your healthcare provider will discuss the findings with you and guide you through the next steps. These may include additional imaging, further diagnostic tests, staging evaluations, and consultation with a breast surgeon or oncologist to develop a personalised treatment plan.*

Q: Can all breast abnormalities be evaluated with tomosynthesis core biopsy?

A: *Tomosynthesis core biopsy is suitable for evaluating indeterminate or suspicious calcifications or other breast abnormalities seen on a tomosynthesis mammogram. However, some cases may require alternative biopsy methods, such as ultrasound-guided or MRI-guided biopsy. Your healthcare provider will determine the most appropriate approach based on your specific situation.*

Q: How do I prepare for a tomosynthesis core biopsy?

A: *Your healthcare provider will provide specific instructions to prepare for the procedure. Generally, you may be asked to avoid blood-thinning medications and inform your provider about any allergies or medical conditions. It is important to follow the instructions provided to ensure a successful biopsy.*

Remember, a tomosynthesis core biopsy is a valuable tool in diagnosing and managing breast abnormalities. If you have any concerns or questions about the procedure, don't hesitate to discuss them with your healthcare provider or the Women's and Breast Imaging Centre team.