

BREAST MARKER CLIPS

Q: What is a marker clip and why is it used after a core biopsy of the breast under mammogram or ultrasound?

A: *A marker clip, also known as a localisation clip or biopsy marker, is a small metal device that is placed at the site of the biopsy within the breast tissue. It serves as a reference point for future imaging and surgical procedures, ensuring accurate identification of the biopsy site.*

Q: Is the placement of a marker clip safe?

A: *Yes, the placement of a marker clip is a safe and routine procedure. It is performed under the guidance of a mammogram or ultrasound imaging, allowing for precise localisation of the biopsy site. The procedure is minimally invasive and typically does not cause significant discomfort.*

Q: Why is a marker clip important after a core biopsy?

A: *The marker clip is essential for several reasons. Firstly, it provides a visible and permanent marker of the biopsy site, helping radiologists and surgeons accurately locate and assess the area during follow-up imaging or potential surgical procedures. Secondly, it enables comparison of future mammograms or ultrasounds to monitor any changes or potential developments in the area.*

Q: Is the placement of a marker clip the standard of care after a core biopsy?

A: *Yes, the placement of a marker clip has become the standard of care after a core biopsy. It is considered an important part of the biopsy procedure, ensuring continuity of care and facilitating effective communication among healthcare providers. The presence of a marker clip enhances the accuracy of future imaging and helps guide any necessary treatments or interventions.*

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Q: Will I be able to feel or see the marker clip?

A: *In most cases, you will not be able to feel or see the marker clip. It is a small device placed deep within the breast tissue, and its presence should not cause any physical discomfort or aesthetic changes. However, it is always a good idea to inform your healthcare provider if you experience any unexpected symptoms or concerns.*

Q: Can the marker clip cause any health issues or complications?

A: *The marker clip is designed to be biocompatible and inert, meaning it should not cause any adverse health effects. It is generally well-tolerated by the body, and complications or reactions are extremely rare. If you have any specific concerns or medical conditions, it is important to discuss them with your healthcare provider before the procedure.*

Q: How long will the marker clip remain in place?

A: *The marker clip is intended to remain in place permanently. It does not require removal unless there are specific medical reasons to do so, which would be determined by your healthcare provider. It serves as a reference point for future imaging and allows for ongoing monitoring of the biopsy site.*

Remember, the placement of a marker clip after a core biopsy is a standard practice aimed at providing accurate and comprehensive care for patients with breast abnormalities. If you have any further questions or concerns, feel free to discuss them with your healthcare provider or the Women's and Breast Imaging Centre team.