

CORE BIOPSY PROCEDURE

Q: What is an ultrasound-guided core biopsy of the breast?

A: *An ultrasound-guided core biopsy is a minimally invasive procedure used to obtain tissue samples from breast lumps or abnormalities detected on breast ultrasound. It involves using ultrasound imaging to precisely guide a special biopsy needle into the area of concern to collect tissue samples for further analysis.*

Q: Why is an ultrasound-guided core biopsy performed?

A: *An ultrasound-guided core biopsy is performed when a breast lump or abnormality is identified on breast ultrasound and needs further evaluation. It helps determine if the lump is benign (non-cancerous) or malignant (cancerous) and provides crucial information for diagnosis and treatment planning.*

Q: How is an ultrasound-guided core biopsy performed?

A: *During the procedure, you will lie on your back or side while the radiologist uses ultrasound to locate and mark the targeted area. A local anesthetic is administered to numb the skin and breast tissue. Then, a small incision is made, and a biopsy needle is inserted through the incision to extract small tissue samples. The samples are sent to a pathology laboratory for analysis. A biopsy clip will be placed within the lump or biopsy site.*

Q: Does an ultrasound-guided core biopsy cause pain?

A: *The procedure is generally well-tolerated. You may experience some pressure or discomfort when the needle is inserted, but local anesthesia helps minimize pain. After the procedure, you may have mild soreness or bruising, which can be relieved with over-the-counter pain medication and ice packs.*

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Q: How long does an ultrasound-guided core biopsy take?

A: *The procedure itself usually takes about 5 to 20 minutes, depending on the complexity of the case. You may need to spend additional time on preparation and post-procedure observation.*

Q: Are there any risks or complications associated with an ultrasound-guided core biopsy?

A: *Ultrasound-guided core biopsy is considered a safe procedure with minimal risks. Potential risks include bleeding, infection, bruising, and a small chance of a biopsy clip being left behind. These risks are rare and can be further minimized by following proper sterile techniques.*

Q: When will I receive the results of my ultrasound-guided 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.*

Q: What happens if the ultrasound-guided core biopsy shows cancer?

A: *If the biopsy results indicate breast cancer, your healthcare provider will discuss the findings with you and provide guidance on 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.*



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Q: Can all breast lumps be evaluated with an ultrasound-guided core biopsy?

A: *An ultrasound-guided core biopsy is suitable for evaluating most breast lumps and abnormalities seen on ultrasound. However, there are certain cases where alternative biopsy methods, such as stereotactic or MRI-guided biopsy, may be more appropriate. Your healthcare provider will determine the most suitable approach based on your specific situation.*

Q: How do I prepare for an ultrasound-guided core biopsy?

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

Remember, an ultrasound-guided core biopsy is a valuable diagnostic tool that helps provide accurate information about breast lumps and abnormalities. If you have any concerns or questions about the procedure, don't hesitate to reach out to our Women's and Breast Imaging centre or consult with your healthcare provider.