

MAMMOTOME (VACUUM ASSISTED) BREAST BIOPSY

PATIENT INFORMATION

Patient's Name : _____ Appt. Date & Time : _____

NRIC/PP No : _____

PRE-BIOPSY MEDICATION INSTRUCTIONS:

Please inform us BEFORE YOUR BREAST BIOPSY APPOINTMENT if you are:

Taking anti-coagulants ("blood thinners" such as WARFARIN AND HEPARIN). These must be stopped for several days before the scheduled procedure for us to perform a biopsy. This will have to be done in conjunction with advice from your physician.

Taking ASPIRIN, ADVIL, NSAIDS (such as PONSTAN, taken mainly for pain or arthritis), VITAMIN E or FISH OIL. They can affect blood clotting especially if taken on a long term or regular basis and should not be taken for 7 days before and 2 days after the biopsy.

Allergic or unresponsive to local anaesthetic injections, such as LIGNOCAINE or any other medication.

DAY OF BIOPSY INSTRUCTIONS

Eat a light breakfast or lunch prior to the biopsy, limiting fluids, unless otherwise directed by your surgeon. Wash your breasts and underarms thoroughly with soap and water. Wear loose-fitting, two piece clothing to simplify dressing and undressing. Wear a brassiere. Be prepared to spend about 2 hours in the Breast Biopsy Department.

DESCRIPTION OF PROCEDURE

The Biopsy procedure will be performed under local anaesthesia. The radiologist will target the area of abnormality. The surgeon will inject a local anaesthetic and, under ultrasound or mammographic guidance, insert a special biopsy needle into your breast and obtain the breast biopsy samples. These will be sent to the pathologist for assessment.

RISK OF PROCEDURE

During the biopsy, most patients experience only mild discomfort. Rarely, patients may experience significant bleeding or pain during the biopsy. Following the biopsy, discomfort, tenderness, bruising, and bleeding at the biopsy site are usually mild, but occasionally they are significant. Post-biopsy breast infection and other risks and complications rarely occur. Complications from this biopsy, or any other type of breast biopsy, can delay subsequent breast surgery. Rarely, patients may have an allergic reaction to the local anaesthetic.

BENEFIT OF THE PROCEDURE

A definitive diagnosis of the breast abnormality can usually, but not always, be made. Attempts will be made to completely remove the lesion. This may not be possible due to its size, type or location or if there is a lot of bleeding. In rare instances, biopsy of the targeted abnormality may not be successfully achieved due to complications or technical difficulties.

ALTERNATIVE TO THIS PROCEDURE:

The abnormal area can be removed by surgical excision, which is usually a more extensive procedure, with approximately the same accuracy as a Mammotome biopsy. A Mammotome biopsy is an advanced form of core biopsy that allows multiple tissue samples to be removed with each needle insertion. The biopsy can be done by core biopsy or fine-needle aspiration techniques, which usually gives a less definitive diagnosis. Alternatively, the abnormality can be followed on serial mammograms or ultrasound scans and not biopsied at all. This approach is used when there is deemed to be a very low likelihood of breast cancer.

POST-BIOPSY INSTRUCTIONS:

Leave the pressure bandage on for 24 hours after the biopsy. Do not shower or bathe till then.

Do not remove the steri-strips or transparent plastic dressing over the wound till 3 days after the biopsy.

Dry this area each time you shower or bathe.

You may use some antiseptic cream on the biopsy site if you choose to but this is not necessary. There will usually be some bruising where the needle entered the skin.

If you need to take something for pain or discomfort, take Paracetamol or similar. Do not take Aspirin or medications containing Aspirin.

Do not participate in strenuous activities for 24 hours eg. tennis, weightlifting, aerobics. No swimming for one week.

Watch for excessive bleeding, pain or swelling. If any of these occur, please contact your surgeon.

I confirm that I have read and understood the above information on Mammotome (Vacuum Assisted) Breast Biopsy.

Patient's Signature

Date