

STEREOTACTIC BREAST BIOPSY

When there is an abnormality that is found on a mammogram, and it is felt that a diagnosis is needed, we use a **minimally invasive technique** for biopsy called a **Stereotactic Breast Biopsy**.

WHAT IS A STEREOTACTIC BREAST BIOPSY?

During this procedure, you will lay on a special table with the breast to be biopsied coming out of a hole in the table. The mammography technician will then position the area in the breast to be biopsied. This is done with putting the breast in compression, very much like a mammogram. Once the area of concern is noted on a computer, the skin area will be cleaned with some antiseptic solution. **Local anesthesia** is used to numb the area where the probe will be inserted. A small incision, smaller than your fingernail, will be made. The probe will be inserted. Pictures will be taken while you are in that position to make sure that we have the probe positioned in the area of concern.

The probe is then advanced. You will hear a loud noise, and will feel pressure. But you should feel no pain. More pictures are taken. Then tissue samples are obtained. We use an apparatus that allows us to continually numb you as the samples are taken. This makes the procedure very comfortable for the patient.

Once the samples are taken, a clip is placed in the area that was biopsied. This allows us to identify the area that was sampled. Due to the fact that sometimes the probes take out the entire area during sampling, it is a good idea to leave a marker behind. In the case of a malignancy that may be found, the clip is our guide to go to the area of the cancer at the time of the cancer surgery. In cases where the area is benign, and not a cancer, the clip allows us to know what area was sampled. The clip does not set off alarms at the airport, and it does not interfere with MRI technology.

Once the procedure is done, small butterfly strips called steri strips are placed in the area of the biopsy. You will then get a mammogram to make sure that the clip deployed and the area is adequately sampled.

You will then be given some post procedure instructions, and a follow up appointment will be made for you to come back and get the results. The **entire procedure** usually takes about **45 minutes** for each site to be biopsied. Since this is done under local anesthesia, you can drive yourself back and forth to the procedure. You can eat and drink anything you want the day of the biopsy.

However, **one week** prior to the biopsy, **no aspirin, Aleve, Motrin, Coumadin, vitamin E, or any other blood thinners**. Those who are on the aspirin or coumadin for cardiac issues need to notify their doctors who are prescribing these medications and let them know that you will be having a biopsy. Therefore, you will be off the medications for a week prior to the procedure.