

What are the potential side effects of the procedure and what can I do about them?

- 1. Mild pain: This can be managed with over-the-counter pain relief medication, e.g. Panadol.
- 2. Bleeding: First, apply pressure. If heavy bleeding persists, please seek medical attention at **NUH Breast Imaging Centre (during office hours between 8.30am to 5pm) or NUH Emergency (after office hours).**
- 3. Infection: This is rare and may result in fever, or pus/redness at the wound site. **Please seek medical attention at NUH Emergency if this happens.**
- 4. Allergy: **Please inform your doctor of any allergies to the medications used** (Chlorhexidine, Iodine and Lignocaine).

What are the alternatives if I choose not to go ahead with this procedure?

- 1. Surgery to remove the breast tissue, which has higher risks and a longer recovery period.
- 2. Follow-up imaging in a short period of time. This is less invasive but may be inconclusive and potentially lead to a delay in diagnosis.

Our Patient Care Institutions

National University Hospital
Ng Teng Fong General Hospital & Jurong Community Hospital
Alexandra Hospital
National University Polyclinics
Jurong Medical Centre
National University Cancer Institute, Singapore
National University Heart Centre, Singapore
National University Centre for Oral Health, Singapore
NUHS Diagnostics
NUHS Pharmacy



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If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at:

National University Hospital
Department of Diagnostic Imaging
Tel: (65) 6772 2263
Email: breastimaging_appt@nuhs.edu.sg

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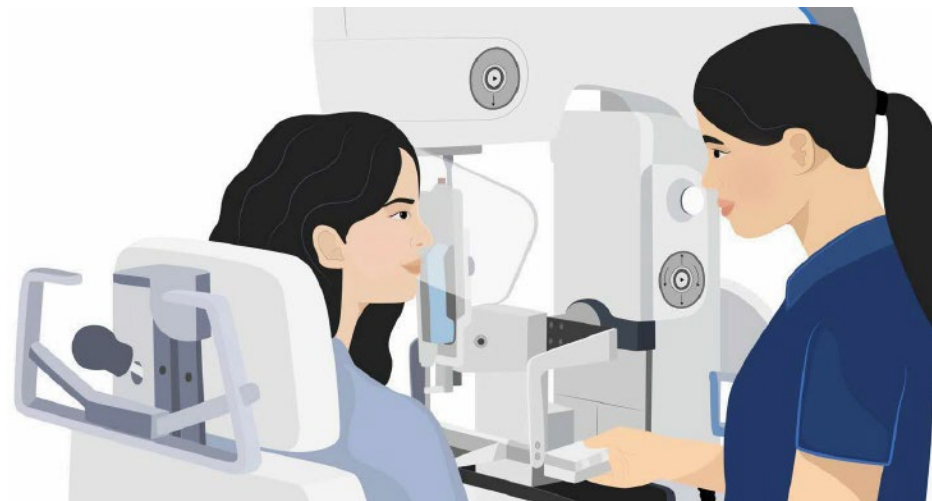
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Stereotactic Guided Breast Biopsy

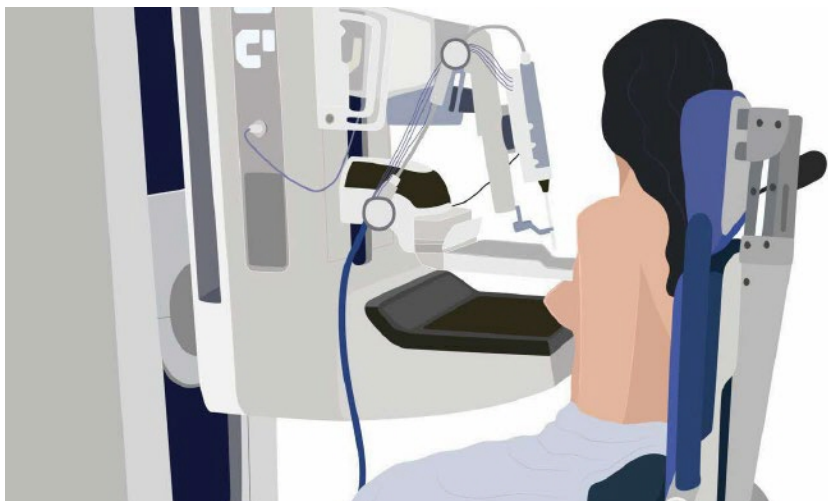


Why do I need a breast biopsy?

A breast biopsy is recommended when abnormal findings are seen in the breast on imaging scans. Our doctors will obtain samples from these abnormal regions to determine if they are cancerous.

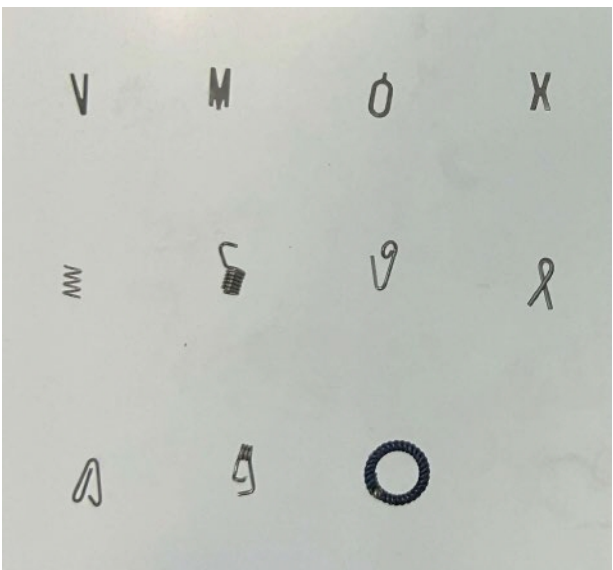
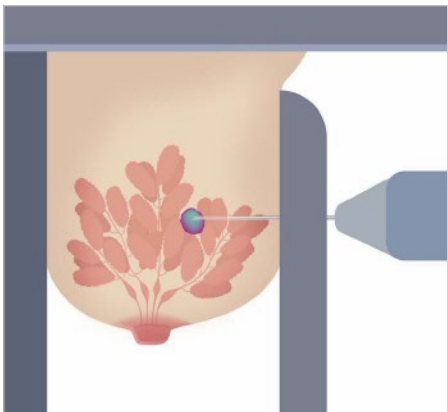
What can I expect before the procedure?

1. Your doctor will explain to you the biopsy process, its risks and complications. Your consent will then be taken.
2. You will change into patient attire and be guided to the biopsy equipment. As you will be sitting upright for approximately 60 minutes during the procedure, **it is important to find a comfortable position.**
3. Fasting is not required for the biopsy. **If you are taking blood thinning medications, kindly inform your doctor.**



What can I expect during the procedure?

1. The procedure site on your breast will be cleansed with an antiseptic solution (Chlorhexidine or Iodine). A local anaesthetic (Lignocaine) will then be injected to numb the skin. Note that you will be awake during the procedure.
2. A small incision will be made for the biopsy needle. This typically measures approximately 1cm regardless of the size of the abnormality in your breast. If multiple abnormal regions are to be biopsied, multiple incisions may be made on the skin.
3. The biopsy needle's path is precisely calculated using imaging scans taken before the biopsy.
4. You may hear a loud whirring sound during the biopsy as the specimens are collected. **It is important that you stay still.**
5. **Occasionally, the doctor may recommend repeating the procedure with repositioning** to ensure accuracy of targeting. Rarely, the biopsy may not be successful, and other options will be discussed.



6. In all patients who undergo a stereotactic guided biopsy, a tiny metal clip ("marker clip") is placed in the breast. This clip helps the doctor locate the biopsied area in different scans and guides the surgeon to the correct area to operate. **It is safe for MRI scans and metal detectors in the airport. The clip is permanent, and you will not be able to notice or feel it.**
7. A mammogram is usually performed after marker clip insertion to confirm its position.

What can I expect after the procedure?

1. Minor bleeding is to be expected. Any pain or discomfort should subside in a few hours.
2. The biopsy results and treatment options will be discussed with you at your next appointment. Note that surgical removal may sometimes be advised even if the results of the biopsy are not cancerous.

