



Breast Biopsy

Patient Information Leaflet

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A member of the NUHS

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A **breast biopsy** is a minor procedure, which removes tissues from the breast so that it can be tested to determine if the patient has cancer. An accurate biopsy can be taken from most patients without the need for open surgical procedure.

An image-guided biopsy is required when an abnormality is detected on a mammogram and/or ultrasound scan. However, 90% of the biopsies are negative (Health Promotion Board, 2012), i.e. no cancer is found.

What to Expect During the Procedure

There are several types of percutaneous breast procedures available.

- Core Needle Biopsy
- Vacuum Assisted Biopsy

These procedures are done under local anesthesia and as a day-surgery procedure in an outpatient setting.

The area in the breast where the abnormality is noted is first localised using an ultrasound or mammogram machine. The radiologist then inserts a needle to obtain small samples of tissue. Several needle insertions are usually required to obtain an adequate sample.

After The Procedure

- Ensure that you have someone to accompany you home after the procedure.
- You will be given a dressing to cover the puncture site after the procedure. Please keep the dressing dry. The dressing can be removed after 2 days.
- Should there be any bleeding, do compress the wound firmly for 15-20 minutes. If the bleeding persists, please call the following numbers below based on which hospital the procedure was performed at, or see a Doctor/GP at the nearest clinic around your area.



National University Hospital	Alexandra Hospital
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Breast Imaging 6772 2636 (Office Hours) ▪ Emergency Department 6772 5000 (After Office Hours) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Diagnostic Imaging 6379 3280 (Office Hours) ▪ Hospital Hotline 6472 2000 (After Office Hours)

- Should you experience pain over the wound site, you may take Paracetamol or Codeine. Do NOT take Aspirin or Ponstan (mefenamic acid) for the pain.
- Avoid vigorous swinging of the arm on the affected side for 48 hours after the biopsy.

Should you have any queries or require further clarifications, please contact:

National University Hospital
 Department of Diagnostic Imaging
 Tel: (65) 6772 2263
 Fax: (65) 6779 5219
 Email: DDI_enquiries@nuhs.edu.sg

Alexandra Hospital
 Diagnostic Imaging
 Tel: (65) 6379 3280
 Fax: (65) 6379 3289
 Email: ah_enquiries@nuhs.edu.sg

Your Breast Biopsy Appointment	
 National University Hospital Breast Imaging <input type="checkbox"/> 8b Breast Care Centre, Medical Centre, Level 8	 Alexandra Hospital Diagnostic Imaging <input type="checkbox"/> DI 2, Block 6, Level 1 <input type="checkbox"/> DI 3, Block 6, Level 2
Patient Particulars: <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 100px; width: 100%;"></div>	Appointment Date/Time: <hr/> Estimated Fees for Outpatient: <hr/>
<p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please do not bring valuables or excess cash with you. Patients and visitors are responsible for personal belongings. • No medical certificate can be issued for this appointment. Certificate of attendance will be given upon request. 	
<p>Please arrive at least 15 mins before the appointed time to register and prepare for the procedure. We appreciate your understanding should an unforeseen delay occur due to medical exigencies. Kindly inform us if you are unable to keep to the scheduled appointment.</p>	
<h3>Preparation Instructions for Patient</h3>	
IMPORTANT REMINDERS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please inform us if you are on anticoagulant therapy (Warfarin, Heparin, Aspirin) or have any bleeding tendency. • Fasting is not required. • Do not use talcum powder, body lotion or deodorant on the chest and underarms, as these may be reflected on the x-rays. • You are encouraged to wear a two-piece outfit, as you will need to undress above the waist for the procedure. • Please bring along your previous breast imaging (mammogram/ultrasound) films (if any). • Please inform your doctor or radiographer if there is a possibility that you may be pregnant. 	
<p>Please bring this leaflet on the day of your appointment</p>	