Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center | A teaching hospital of Harvard Medical School

Breast Imaging Center
Department of Radiology
Shapiro Clinical Center, 4th Floor
330 Longwood Avenue

Stereotactic Breast Biopsy

What is a stereotactic breast biopsy?

Stereotactic breast biopsy is a procedure that uses mammography to assist in removing suspicious calcifications or tissue from your breast. The entire procedure is done through a small cut in the skin.

How do I prepare for the biopsy?

As there is an increased risk of bleeding during and after the procedure, you may be asked to stop using blood thinning medications before the procedure.

If you are currently taking aspirin, NSAIDS (Motrin, Advil, or Aleve), Heparin, Coumadin, or Plavix, please call the mammography coordinator at least one week before your appointment.

Is it going to hurt?

You will be given a local anesthetic. Once the numbing medicine takes effect, you may only feel pressure. Generally, this procedure is well tolerated. Please let the staff know if we can make you more comfortable.

What happens during the procedure?

- After changing into a gown, you will lie on your stomach with your breast suspended through an opening in the table. The table will then be elevated and the radiologist will sit beneath you. Your breast will be compressed similar to a mammogram.
- The biopsy site will be marked and you will be given a local anesthetic, called Lidocaine.
- A small incision is made and the biopsy instrument is then inserted. Images will be taken throughout the process.
- The biopsy machine will make beeping noises throughout the procedure. This is normal and you should not be alarmed.
- After the sample is collected, a small titanium clip will be placed in the breast where the tissue was removed. This will remain in the breast and help identify the biopsy site in the future. You will not see or feel the clip.

What happens after?

After the biopsy, you will have a mammogram to ensure the clip is properly placed at the biopsy site.

At home:

- Use ice and Tylenol for any pain
- You can shower the following day. Avoid baths and hot tubs.
- Wear and sleep with a soft bra for 24-36 hours

Who will be performing the biopsy?

A radiologist (MD), nurse practitioner, and technologist will work together as a team throughout the procedure. As the BIDMC is a Harvard-affiliated teaching hospital, medical students, residents and fellows may assist in your care as well.

Breast Imaging Center
Appointment Scheduling
617-667-2515

Benefits of the procedure

A stereotactic breast biopsy is a safe and accurate alternative to a surgical biopsy.

The risks are minimal but may include bleeding and infection.

As with any procedure, there is a small possibility that your biopsy may not be performed due to unpredictable technical limitations.

Quick Tips

- **On average, the actual procedure will take about one hour but be prepared to be here for 3 hours**
- **Do not wear deodorant or lotions on the day of your procedure**
- **Wear a 2 piece outfit that is easy to change out of**
- **Bring or wear a soft bra or sports bra**
- **You will be able to drive or take public transportation after the procedure, but you may still consider bringing someone with you**
- **If you do not hear from your health care provider with results within one week please call your doctor's office**

Further Information

617- 667-2503
if you have questions regarding scheduling

Questions & Concerns

Please contact our nurse practitioner at
617- 667-1626
if you have any medical questions or concerns regarding the biopsy

What about the results?

Results will be available after 5-6 business days.

The person who referred you for the procedure will share the results with you.

This information was prepared by the Breast Imaging section at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center.

For further information, please visit us on our new website: **www.bidmc.org**
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