



MR-Guided Breast Biopsy

What is an MR-Guided breast biopsy?

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) uses magnetic fields to evaluate breast tissue. Certain tissue characteristics that are not easily seen on ultrasound or mammography can be detected by MRI. The radiologist uses MR images to locate suspicious regions of breast tissue and visually assist in taking samples.

How do I prepare for the biopsy?

MRI uses very strong magnets to acquire images. **Please let us know if you have a pacemaker or other surgical implants, such as artificial heart valves, aneurysm clips and cochlear implants.** These devices may not be compatible with the MR unit. **It is also important that you do not wear metal on the day of your procedure such as jewelry, hair clips, and clothing with metallic zippers or snaps.** Because the procedure uses contrast material please let your physician know of any drug allergies you may have.

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.

What happens during the procedure?

- After changing into a gown the procedure will be explained to you. You will lie on your stomach with your breast suspended through a coil.
- Your breast will be gently compressed.
- Images will then be obtained. Although you will be alone in the room, the staff can see and hear you at all times during the procedure. The images will help determine placement of the needle.
- You will be given a local anesthetic, called Lidocaine. After the needle is inserted, additional images will be taken to assure proper location.
- The tissue samples will then be obtained and a small clip will be placed to help identify the biopsy site in the future. You will not see or feel the clip.
- After the biopsy, you will have a mammogram to ensure that the clip is properly placed.

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.

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.

Benefits of the procedure

MR biopsy is performed when the abnormality is not visualized on mammography or ultrasound and only on MRI. It is less invasive than conventional breast surgery. MRI is based on magnetic fields and there is no radiation exposure.

What are the risks?

As this is a minimally invasive procedure, there is always the risk of bleeding and infection. Sometimes a diagnosis cannot be made from the tissue removed. Your healthcare providers will decide the next steps if this is the case. Although unlikely, some patients may have a reaction to the contrast material.



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

QUICK TIPS

- **Notify your mammography coordinator if you are taking aspirin or a blood thinner at least one week before your appointment**
- **Tell your doctor about any surgical implants, pacemakers or drug allergies**
- **Do not wear deodorant or lotions on the day of your procedure**
- **Do not wear jewelry or metal**
- **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**
- **On average, the actual procedure will take about one hour but be prepared to be here for 3 hours as time is needed to adjust your positioning and acquire the MR images**



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.

If you do not hear from your health care provider with results within one week, please call your doctor's office

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

Click to navigate to Center and Departments/Radiology/Exams/Breast Imaging/Procedures