

Ultrasound-guided Breast Aspiration & Core Biopsy

What is an ultrasound-guided cyst aspiration/core biopsy?

Ultrasound-guided core breast biopsy and cyst aspiration are procedures that use sound waves (ultrasound) to assist in removing tissue from your breast or fluid from a cyst in your breast.

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?

- On the day of your appointment you will change into a hospital gown and the procedure will be explained.
- You will be asked to lie on your back with your arm over your head
- Clear jelly and the ultrasound transducer will be used to image your breast and locate the site to be biopsied. Local anesthesia, called Lidocaine, will be used to ensure comfort.
- **For a cyst aspiration** a small needle will be inserted into the breast to attempt to remove fluid from the cyst
- **For a core biopsy** a larger needle will be used to obtain tissue samples of the area of concern. The biopsy device makes a “snapping” noise. You will hear this but you should not feel it.
- 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

An ultrasound-guided 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

- 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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