

Stereotactic Breast Biopsy

Breast Biopsy

If your last breast imaging test showed an abnormal area, your health care provider may want to do a stereotactic breast biopsy.

During the biopsy, the radiologist (the doctor who does the biopsy) takes small samples of breast tissue with a needle-like device. The device is guided to the exact spot within your breast with the help of X-rays and computer images.

The biopsy appointment takes about 60 to 90 minutes. The radiologist or technologist will tell you what is being done during the entire biopsy.

Before the Biopsy

- If Piper Breast Center® does not already have your previous breast imaging exams, please have them sent as soon as possible so your biopsy is not delayed.
- You do not need a driver, but you are welcome to have a family member or friend come with you to this appointment. **Please note:** Only Piper Breast Center staff are allowed in the procedure room.

During the Biopsy

- You will be asked to sit in chair.
- The technologist will position your breast in the mammogram machine.
- The technologist will compress your breast using a special paddle. Your breast will be kept in the same position for the biopsy.

- The technologist will take several X-rays of your breast. You may be asked to hold your breath for a short time.
- The technologist will clean your breast with a special solution. The radiologist will use a small needle to numb the biopsy area.
- The radiologist may make a small nick in your skin. They will insert a needle-like device into your breast. X-rays and computer images will be used to get the correct biopsy location. You may feel pressure, but you should not feel any pain.
- You may hear a clicking or buzzing sound. This is the normal sound of the biopsy device.
- The radiologist will use the needle-like device to remove several small samples of breast tissue. The samples are about the size of cooked rice.
- After the radiologist has removed enough samples, a tiny metal clip may be placed into your breast tissue. The metal clip is about one-eighth of an inch long and will help show the biopsy area on future breast imaging studies.
- Once the biopsy is done, a mammogram will be done to show exactly where the metal clip is in your breast.
- The breast tissue samples will be sent to the pathology laboratory.

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After the Biopsy

- You may have some bleeding, bruising or discomfort at the biopsy site.
- You may continue most of your normal daily activities. You will be given detailed information of what activities are OK.
- It is important to follow any instructions you are given after your biopsy.
- There are no special instructions for the metal clip. It will not set off metal detection alarms in airports.

When You Will Get the Results of Your Biopsy

A Piper Breast Center nurse will call you after your biopsy to talk about your results and any follow-up that is needed.

In compliance with the 21st Century Cures Act, biopsy results are released **automatically** to your Allina Health account (MyChart). This means you may see your biopsy results **before** the Piper Breast Center nurse. Please know that the Piper Breast Center nurse will call you as soon as possible to talk about your results and answer any questions.

Piper Breast Center

If you have any questions or concerns, please call Piper Breast Center between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

- ❑ Abbott Northwestern Hospital (Minneapolis): 612-863-3150
- ❑ Mercy Hospital (Coon Rapids): 763-236-0818
- ❑ United Hospital (St. Paul): 651-241-8572 or 651-241-8375
- ❑ WestHealth (Plymouth): 763-577-7676

After business hours, please call the radiologist on call.

- ❑ For Abbott Northwestern Hospital and WestHealth, please call Consulting Radiologists, Ltd.: 952-285-3750
- ❑ For Mercy Hospital and United Hospital, please call Midwest Radiology: 651-297-6504