

## What you need to know before your Stereotactic Core Biopsy

### What is a Stereotactic Core Biopsy?

A Stereotactic Core Biopsy is a procedure used to take small samples of breast tissue with a special needle called a core needle. This procedure is done with the assistance of mammogram imaging.

### Why do I need a Stereotactic Core Biopsy?

A mammogram may detect a mass or tiny dots of calcification in the breast. Usually these changes are too small to feel.

When this happens, a Stereotactic Core Biopsy is performed to get more information about these findings.

### How should I prepare for my Stereotactic Core Biopsy?

- You may want to ask a family member or friend to come with you for your appointment to have someone for support and to take you home (not required).
- Please bring a list of all of your current medications to your appointment
- On the morning of your appointment:
  - Take your regularly prescribed medications unless otherwise instructed
  - DO NOT use deodorant, antiperspirants, body lotions, or talcum powder around your underarm and breast area.
  - Eat and drink normally.
  - You may want to wear a comfortable 2 piece outfit. You will be asked to undress from the waist up and change into a gown for the procedure.
  - Please arrive 30 minutes before your appointment to allow time for registration and changing into a gown.

***IMPORTANT:*** Inform the Diagnostic Imaging Department (at the time of registration) and the radiologist/technologist performing the biopsy of any medication allergies you have particularly any allergies to freezing medications such as lidocaine or xylocaine.

### How long will my Stereotactic Core Biopsy take?

You should plan to be at your appointment for approximately 1 ½ hours. This allows time for registration, changing, and the biopsy procedure. The biopsy will take approximately 30 – 40 minutes, of which about 15 minutes is spent taking the tissue samples. This may vary with each individual patient.



## What should I expect during my Stereotactic Core Biopsy?

When you enter the biopsy procedure room, the radiologist will explain the procedure and the potential risks involved, answer any questions, and ask you to sign a consent form to proceed with the biopsy.

- Either seated or lying on your stomach with your breast exposed (through a hole in the examination table), the technologist will use a mammography machine to compress the breast and take pictures to locate the area to be biopsied.
- The skin will be cleaned with an antiseptic solution and local freezing will be injected with a small needle into the skin around the area to be biopsied to numb the skin.
  - You may experience slight discomfort (stinging sensation) during the injection, but this will stop within a few seconds.
  - If you feel pain at any time during the biopsy, let the radiologist or technologist know, as they may give you more freezing medication.
- A small incision will be made in the skin to allow the biopsy needle to pass through the skin easily.
- You may feel some pressure when the biopsy needle is inserted.
- Approximately 4-9 samples will be taken. Each time a sample is taken, you will hear a clicking noise as the core needle is spring loaded.
- When the procedure is complete, the breast will be released from compression.
- Pressure will be applied to the biopsy site for a few minutes.
- Steri-Strips<sup>®</sup> (white tapes) will be applied to the incision.
- An ice pack may be placed on the site for 10 minutes. You will also take this ice pack home for use as it is re-usable.

## What should I do after my Stereotactic Core Biopsy?

Please follow the “Post Biopsy Patient Care Instructions” attached.

## How long will it take to get the results from my Stereotactic Core Biopsy?

The results of your biopsy will be available within 2 weeks following your biopsy. You will either receive your results at your appointment with the Breast Diagnostic Assessment Unit, or from your family/ordering physician.