

Yale New Haven Breast Imaging Center

Instructions for an MRI Guided Needle Biopsy

Your breast imaging studies reveal the need for a biopsy. During a biopsy, a needle is inserted into the area of concern to withdraw some tissue that will be sent for examination. Needle biopsies are performed quickly and with minimal pain. It is an out-patient procedure that only requires local anesthesia. In most cases is preferable to a surgical biopsy.

Before MRI Breast Biopsy

- Avoid anti-inflammatory medications such as Motrin, Advil, Aleve or Ibuprofen for 24 hours before your procedure if possible.
- Please let us know if you are taking blood thinners like **aspirin, Coumadin®, Xarelto, Plavix, Eliquis or Aggrenox**. Discuss with your physician if it is safe to hold these medications before the biopsy.
- The biopsy may not be able to be done if you have certain medical conditions or are on medications that cause bleeding.

The day of the MRI Breast Biopsy

- You may eat and drink, and take your regular medications
- Please leave jewelry or valuable personal items at home. You will need to undress, change into an exam gown, removing any objects containing metal. Your belongings will be placed in a locker.
- Smilow Cancer Hospital: Valet parking is available at the main entrance, or you can park at the 4th level of the Air Rights Parking Garage (fees apply).
- The nurse or radiologist will explain the biopsy procedure and answer all of your questions

For MRI Breast Biopsy

- The technologist will start an IV in a vein in your arm for the contrast material.
- You will be positioned on the scanner table faced down.
- Your breast will be in a slight compression.
- Images will be taken within the scanner in order to find the area to be biopsied.
- You will then be moved out of the scanner for the actual biopsy procedure.
- Your skin will be cleaned with an antiseptic solution
- After giving a local anesthetic and making a small cut in your skin, a device will be placed in your breast and you will be placed back into the scanner for more imaging.
- After confirming the correct area of the biopsy device, the radiologist will take several tiny pieces of breast tissue from the area of concern with a biopsy needle
- After the biopsy, a small marking device is usually placed in the breast to mark the site of biopsy

Yale New Haven Breast Imaging Center

Instructions for an MRI Guided Needle Biopsy

After the procedure

- Pressure will be applied to your breast to stop any bleeding.
- A post-procedure mammogram is often performed.
- Follow-up instructions and an ice pack will be provided.
- When you feel comfortable, you may leave and resume near normal activity, including driving.
- You should not do any heavy lifting or upper arm exercises for 24 hours after the procedure.
- The results are usually available in 5 working days.

Contact

If you have any questions, please call:

- Smilow Cancer Hospital: Clinical Specialist at 203-200-5221 or Kim Lapia, RN, at 203-200-5242
- Shoreline Medical Center: 203-453-7158

**Yale New Haven Hospital thanks you
for choosing us to be part of your healthcare team.**