

MRI Guided Needle Biopsy

Pre-Exam Information and Instructions

Before arriving for your exam

- There is no eating or drinking restrictions the day of your procedure.
- 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.
- If you have the identification card of any implanted devices you may have, please bring it.
- Let your doctor or nurse know if you are claustrophobic or have pain when lying flat for more than 30 minutes. Claustrophobia or inability to be still for more than 30 minutes will interfere with the exam.
- Children accompanying patients during visits:
 - Unfortunately, we cannot routinely supervise your children during your imaging study. We believe that you are best served when we can provide 100% of our attention to you. Therefore, we encourage you to make childcare arrangements or to bring a responsible adult with you to supervise your children.
- Please leave your jewelry and valuables at home and wear comfortable clothing.
- Although we do not anticipate any delay in your scheduled appointment, we recommend that you bring a book, magazine or music player to help pass any time you may need to wait.
- We follow strict COVID-19 precautions. You will be asked to wear a mask during your appointment, including while getting your scan (we will provide you with a mask to use during the MRI). Your MRI room will be cleaned before you enter by MRI staff.

After arrival

- You will be asked to complete a questionnaire which will determine if an MRI is safe for you. People with various implants (usually metallic) or with metal in their bodies (including some tattoos) may have difficulty with an MRI, which utilizes a strong magnetic field.
- Upon arrival, the technologist will explain your procedure and answer any questions you may have.
- We will provide you with a hospital gown or hospital scrubs to change into before your MRI.
- If contrast is ordered for your exam, an IV will need to be placed.

During your exam

- For MRI of your breast you will be required to lie on your stomach (face down).

- Your breast will be placed in a device designed for MRI guided breast biopsies. They will not be compressed like a mammogram.
- 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 to prepare for 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
- Pressure will be applied to your breast to stop any bleeding.
- A post-procedure mammogram is often performed.

Exam duration

- Your scan will take approximately 60 minutes.

After your procedure

- 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 Information

- If you have any questions, please call:
 - Smilow Cancer Hospital: Clinical Specialist at 203-200-5221
Kim Lapia, RN, at 203-200-5242
 - Shoreline Medical Center: 203-453-7158

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