

When will my Biopsy Results be Available?

A pathologist will be providing the results of your biopsy to your physician in about 7 days.

Your doctor will discuss the results with you and further treatment will be advised at that time.

Even if your results are benign (not cancer), you might need a follow-up mammogram or ultrasound in 6 months.

To contact us, please call
(519) 621-2333 ext. 2231
Monday to Friday 7am to 3pm



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www.cmh.org



You're Having a Breast Biopsy

A Guide for What to Expect



Your Appointment is booked for

DATE: _____

TIME: _____

You are scheduled for a:

- Ultrasound Guided Biopsy
- Stereotactic Guided Biopsy

Please register at Diagnostic Imaging Reception, Level One, **15 minutes before** your scheduled appointment

What is a Breast Biopsy?

Lumps or abnormalities in the breast are often detected by physical examination, mammography, ultrasound or other imaging techniques. It is not always possible to tell if these abnormalities are cancerous or not, from imaging alone.

A breast biopsy is performed to remove some cells from the abnormality and examine them under a microscope to determine a diagnosis. This can be done surgically, or most commonly by a Radiologist using a hollow needle and image guidance. Two types of image guidance are used at our hospital: Ultrasound and Mammography (or Stereotactic guidance).

What should I bring to my appointment?

- Your health card
- An interpreter, if required
- Wear comfortable clothing, preferably a two piece outfit
- A friend or family member to drive you home after the procedure

How long will my Biopsy take?

A Breast Biopsy usually takes about 30 to 45 minutes, of which only 5 to 10 minutes involves taking samples. Plan to be in the department for 1 to 1 ½ hours, in total.

How do I prepare for my Breast Biopsy?

You may eat and drink normally before your appointment.

DO NOT wear deodorant, talcum powder or lotion under your arms or on your breasts if you are having a stereotactic biopsy. These can interfere with the images.

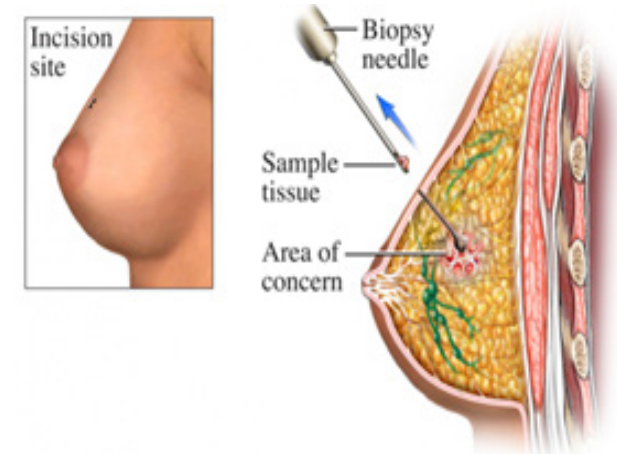
Always inform your doctor or technologist if there is any chance you are or might be pregnant.

If you are taking a blood thinner (such as Warfarin or Coumadin) regularly, please talk to your doctor. These medicines may need to be stopped for a period of time or your biopsy may need to be rescheduled.

What can I expect during my Breast Biopsy?

- A technologist and Radiologist will be with you during the biopsy.
- Initially some pictures will be taken using ultrasound or mammography to further identify the area to biopsy. If mammography is used, your breast will remain under compression during the procedure.
- Your skin will be frozen with a local anesthetic which may sting briefly. After this you should have very little or no discomfort.
- It is very important that you sit/lie still during the procedure.

- The biopsy needle is passed through a small nick in the skin and 3-5 samples are taken through this entry point, using a special needle.
- Pressure and a tight bandage will be applied to the area when the biopsy procedure is complete.



What can I expect after my Biopsy?

You will be given instructions for how to care for the biopsy site and given an instruction sheet as a reminder.

You may resume your normal activities the following day.

You may have some bruising and tenderness for a few days. Take acetaminophen (Tylenol) for any discomfort as necessary. Do not take ibuprofen (advil/Motrin), ASA (Aspirin), or naproxen (Aleve).

Call your doctor if you have a fever or increasing pain or any questions or concerns.