



If you develop a breast lump or other breast change, you may need to have a biopsy. A core needle biopsy is a method that uses a thin, hollow needle to remove samples of tissue from the breast. This method can be used on areas that can be felt or those that can only be seen on a mammogram, ultrasound or MRI. Several tissue samples are taken and sent to the pathologist.

Your biopsy procedure may be performed using the guidance of one of the following imaging systems: ultrasound, stereotactic x-ray or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

Before the Test

1. Please tell us if you are allergic to any medicines or anesthetics.
2. We need to know if you are taking any medicines. Tell us if you are taking:
 - Anticoagulants (blood thinners)
 - Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs)
 - Fish oil or krill oil.

If you take blood thinners such as Plavix, Coumadin, Eliquis, Pradaxa, Xarelto, Lovenox or Edoxaban, you must ask your provider if you should stop taking the medicine. Patients who take blood thinners can generally have biopsies performed.

Locations for Core Biopsies

**UH Cleveland Medical Center
Breen Women's Health Pavilion***
11100 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44106
Phone: 216-844-2778 | Fax: 216-844-7178

**UH Ahuja Medical Center, South Pavilion
Ahuja Breast Center, Suite 1100***
3999 Richmond Road, Beachwood, Ohio 44122
Phone: 216-844-2778 | Fax: 216-292-7114

**UH Elyria Medical Center
Hampson Mole Breast Health Suite**
630 East River Street, Elyria, Ohio 44035
Phone: 440-284-8690 | Fax: 440-329-7612

**UH Geauga Medical Center
a campus of UH Regional Hospitals
Department of Mammography/Diagnostic Imaging**
13207 Ravenna Road, Chardon, Ohio 44024
Phone: 440-285-6387 | Fax: 440-286-6795

**UH Parma Medical Center
Medical Arts Building 4**
7007 Powers Boulevard, Parma, Ohio 44129-5495
Phone: 440-743-3170 | Fax: 440-743-3171

UH Portage Medical Center
6847 North Chestnut Street, Ravenna, Ohio 44266
Phone: 330-297-2338 | Fax: 330-297-8680

**The Breast Health Center*
at UH St. John Medical Center**
29000 Center Ridge Road, Westlake, Ohio 44145
Phone: 440-827-5140 | Fax: 440-827-5408

**UH Tripoint Medical Center
Woman's Diagnostic Center**
7590 Auburn Road, Concord Township, Ohio 44077
Phone: 440-375-8122 | Fax: 440-375-8126

**UH Westlake Health Center*
Department of Mammography/Radiology**
960 Clague Road, Suite 1300, Westlake, Ohio 44145
Phone: 216-844-2778 | Fax: 440-250-2091

For more information, please visit our website at UHhospitals.org/BreastCancer

**Perform MRI-guided biopsies*



Core Biopsies of the Breast



University Hospitals offers a full range of services that promote breast health, the diagnosis and care of benign breast disease, and the early detection and treatment of breast cancer. Our team provides each patient with information, education and the needed support to make an individualized treatment decision.

On the Day of the Test

1. You may eat or drink as usual; you may drive yourself.
2. The procedure takes about one hour.
3. The procedure is performed by a radiologist, a provider who specializes in breast imaging.
4. The only medication you will be given by the radiologist during the procedure is a local numbing medication.

After the Test

1. A steri-strip and bandage will be placed over the incision. You may shower after 24 hours. Remove bandage after the shower. Leave the steri-strips in place to fall off on their own. If after 1 week the steri-strip is still on, you may remove them. Avoid swimming or soaking in tub for 3 days.
2. You may have mild discomfort at the test site. If needed, you may take Tylenol® (acetaminophen) for pain. **Please avoid taking NSAIDs, Motrin®, Advil®, Aleve® or ibuprofen for 24 hours following the biopsy. After 24 hours, you may resume NSAIDs.**
3. If you take aspirin, Plavix, Coumadin, Xarelto or Eliquis please tell us. If these medications were stopped by your provider, please ask them when to restart.
4. You may have some tenderness, bruising or slight bleeding at the site. Please apply ice packs to the site for 15 minutes on, 15 minutes off, for a 2 hour minimum. Use the ice packs for comfort as needed afterward.
5. Most people can return to their usual routine after the procedure. Avoid strenuous activity for 24 hours.
6. Sleep in a bra the night after your biopsy. Continue to do so for comfort.
7. Call your provider if you have any of the following symptoms:
 - Fever
 - Increased pain
 - Increased bleeding
 - Redness
 - Increased swelling
 - Yellowish drainage
8. Your provider will get the biopsy results. Call your provider with any questions.



Ultrasound Guided Core Biopsy

You will be awake during your biopsy. Someone will be with you at all times. The provider will clean and numb the area with some local anesthetic. During your biopsy, you will lie on an exam table while the provider locates the area with the ultrasound equipment. The area will be cleaned and the provider will numb your breast with local anesthetic. You may feel pressure on the skin when the provider is performing the biopsy. The ultrasound image allows the provider to see the needle as it enters the breast and reaches the area that will be biopsied. Several tissue samples are taken and sent to the pathologist. After the samples are taken, a small marker will be placed in the biopsy site so that it can be located in the future if necessary. A mammogram will be performed to confirm that the marker is in the correct position.



Stereotactic Breast Biopsy

You will sit in a special chair. Someone will be with you at all times. Slight compression will be applied to your breast. Pictures will be taken. With the use of a computer and the pictures, the exact area that needs to be biopsied is located.

The area will be cleaned and the provider will numb your breast with a local anesthetic. A small incision is made into your skin, and a special needle is inserted into the tissue. Several tissue samples are taken and sent to the pathologist. A small marker will be placed on the biopsy site so that it can be located in the future if necessary. A mammogram will be performed to confirm that the marker is in the correct position.



MRI-Guided Core Biopsy

You will lie on your stomach on the MRI table and slight compression will be applied to your breast. Pictures will be taken of your breast. With the help of a computer and the pictures, the area to be biopsied is located. The area will be cleaned and the provider will numb your breast with local anesthetic. A small incision is made in your breast and a special needle is placed into your breast. Several tissue samples are taken and sent to the pathologist. After the samples are taken, a small marker will be placed at the biopsy site so it can be located in the future if necessary. A mammogram will be performed to confirm that the marker is in the correct position.

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