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* Locations offering stereotactic
breast biopsy

Stereotactic Breast Biopsy

Understanding your exam



JUN 2023

CALL TO SCHEDULE
(512) 453-6100

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(512) 836-8869

ausrad.com

What is a stereotactic breast biopsy?

A stereotactic breast biopsy is often recommended based on an abnormal finding on a mammogram. Most breast masses or other changes are not cancer; however, to be sure, your doctor has asked that a biopsy be performed. A biopsy is a procedure to remove all or part of a breast mass or collection of calcifications. A pathologist looks at the tissue under a microscope to see if cancer is present. A biopsy is the only way to know for sure if a breast change is benign (not cancer) or malignant (cancer). There are several biopsy methods. Surgical biopsy often needs to be performed in a surgical facility under general anesthesia. Ultrasound-guided, MRI-guided, and stereotactic breast biopsy using digital mammography or 3D mammography can be performed at ARA's radiological facilities using local anesthesia. All of these methods are faster, more comfortable, less expensive and less invasive than a surgical biopsy.

What happens during stereotactic breast biopsy?

Prior to the biopsy, a technologist and radiologist will explain the procedure thoroughly and answer any questions you may have. You will be positioned on a specially designed chair or table and your breast will then be compressed and examined using digital mammography to locate the suspicious area. The area in your breast will be numbed with a local anesthetic. A biopsy instrument is then inserted into the suspicious area to obtain samples of tissue. A small titanium clip will be placed in the sampled area to mark the biopsy site. A mammogram of that breast will be performed after the biopsy to verify clip placement. Most patients report little or no discomfort from the biopsy, however, some experience neck and shoulder stiffness due to positioning. After the biopsy, a bandage is placed on the breast. There is usually very little bleeding from the biopsied area and there is little or no scarring. The breast biopsy procedure takes approximately 5 minutes but you will be on the table for 20 to 30 minutes and in our office from one and a half to two hours.

What can I expect after the biopsy?

Please plan to relax the day of your biopsy. We also request that you avoid strenuous activities such as aerobics, running or lifting heavy objects for the remainder of the day.

How will I find out the results of the test?

The results of your biopsy will be sent to your referring physician in two to three business days. Please contact your physician for your test results.

Instructions

- Stereotactic breast biopsies are performed at our Women's Imaging Centers. Please see the back of this brochure for addresses and contact information.
- Be prepared for the exam to last one and a half to two hours from arrival to departure.
- Wear comfortable, two-piece clothing. Please wear or bring a tight-fitting bra to wear after the procedure.
- If you take any blood thinning medications, aspirin or products containing aspirin, please contact our office for instructions on discontinuing the medications prior to your biopsy.
- You may eat normally and take your usual prescribed medication except blood thinners and products containing aspirin.
- If you have any discomfort after the procedure, you may take Tylenol and use cold compresses on the affected area.

To schedule an appointment, please call our scheduling department at (512) 453-6100.

