

What is a marker clip?

A tissue marker (or marker clip) is placed in your breast after a breast biopsy to help locate the site for future reference. This will be done by a breast radiologist at the time of your needle biopsy or at a later date.

You will have local anaesthetic to numb the breast before the needle containing the marker clip is inserted then taken out. Afterwards you may need a gentle mammogram to check the position of the clip.

Why do I need a marker clip?

During your breast biopsy most of the lesion may have been removed and could be difficult to find. A breast tissue marker is placed to help the radiologist or surgeon find the area again.

Marking the site also helps to check that the correct area was biopsied.

Sometimes when a woman is receiving chemotherapy to shrink a breast cancer before surgery, a marker clip is placed so the cancer can be found during the operation.

Each clip is only 3mm in size. The clips are made of stainless steel or titanium that will show up on your mammogram. The presence of the clip on follow-up mammograms shows exactly where the area was biopsied.

This can save you from needing biopsies in the same area in future or can be used to find the area for surgery.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is the marker clip safe?

Yes, it has been tested and proven to be safe and effective.

Will the marker clip set off metal detectors at the airport?

No.

Will I feel the marker?

The marker clip is so small it is unlikely that you will feel it.

Will the marker move around?

Sometimes the marker clips can move slightly within your breast but they will not travel to other parts of the body.

Will I be able to have an MRI procedure?

Yes, the marker clip can be safely scanned with MRI under appropriate conditions. Please tell the staff in MRI that you have a breast tissue marker clip before your scan.

Will the marker clip be removed?

Not usually, it is designed to stay permanently in your breast. Occasionally it will be removed when you have breast surgery along with the lesion.

Where can I get more information?

The radiologist who places the marker clip can answer questions on the day, or you ask your Breast surgeon at any time.