

Breast Needle Biopsy

FNA and Core needle biopsy

PATIENT INFORMATION

Radiology Services – Mammography

Please read this information sheet before your appointment. You will be able to ask questions before your needle biopsy.

Why am I having a needle biopsy?

A biopsy is done to diagnose (find out) the cause for the breast lump or calcifications the radiologist (X-ray doctor) can see on your mammogram or breast ultrasound.

What happens?

After cleaning the skin with antiseptic, the radiologist will inject the breast skin with local anaesthetic to numb the area.

A needle is then used to take out some breast tissue. There are 2 types of needle biopsy:

Fine Needle aspiration (FNA)

This is usually used to 'suck out' cells from a lymph node in your armpit. It can also be used to drain fluid from a breast cyst.

Core needle biopsy

This is used to take several pieces of tissue from a solid lump. This requires a little cut in the skin which is too small to need a stitch.

Afterwards we will press the breast to stop the bleeding then put a waterproof dressing on.

The fluid or tissue is sent to the laboratory. The pathologist will study this under a microscope and write a report.

How long will the needle biopsy take?

Allow an hour for your appointment

Can I drive home or back to work?

Yes – but not do heavy lifting or strenuous exercise for 24 hours after your biopsy

What happens after the biopsy?

After your biopsy you will have a bruise and it may be a little sore. Occasionally it may bleed again and rarely become infected. Serious complications are very rare. You may have a small scar after a core biopsy. See your GP if you have any concerns.

How will I get my results?

You will get an appointment in the mail or by phone. This appointment is about 2 weeks after your biopsy and is to talk about your results. This will be at the Breast Clinic at Wellington or Kenepuru Hospital outpatient departments.

Contact us;

Your Referring Doctor is the best health professional to answer most questions.

For questions about booking and the timing of your appointment:

Radiology Administration:

Phone: (04) 806 2913

Hours: 8am-4pm, Monday to Friday

Email: radiology.admin@ccdhb.org.nz