



University Hospitals
Birmingham Breast
Services

Core Cut Biopsy Procedure

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If you require this information in another format, such as a different language, large print, braille or audio version please ask a member of staff or email **patientexperience@uhb.nhs.uk**.

Breast Service

Queen Elizabeth Hospital: **0121 371 4499**

Solihull Hospital: **0121 424 5306**

Core cut biopsy procedure

During your visit to the Breast Clinic today, you were advised that we wished to carry out a procedure called a core cut biopsy. We hope we answered all your immediate questions whilst you were in the clinic, but the following information may help to answer any queries you may have.

The benefits

A core cut biopsy is carried out to help the medical staff make a diagnosis.

The alternatives

Please ask your examining doctor if there is an alternative to this test. Sometimes a fine needle aspiration can be offered but the core biopsy often gives more information about your lesion

The risks

Following the biopsy procedure, you may experience one or more of the following side-effects:

- Pain/discomfort
- Lump feels bigger
- Bruising
- Bleeding from the puncture site
- Infection

The procedure

This procedure is carried out under local anaesthetic. This is administered by injection and may sting for a few seconds. When the area is numb, a tiny cut (incision)

is made in the skin near the lesion. A small biopsy device is used to extract 2 to 5 small pieces of breast tissue for close examination. This device makes a noise rather like a staple gun – not everyone demonstrates the noise first. Several specimens are taken and a firm dressing applied. The results from this particular test are not available at the same visit as they take a number of days to process. An appointment will be made for you where you will receive the results of this procedure.

If you have come to the clinic with a lump in your breast you may notice that it feels bigger after the biopsy. This is quite common and may last for up to a fortnight. Some people may experience bruising and some discomfort. If you are uncomfortable, a mild pain killer may be taken.

Marker clip – when the biopsy is complete, a marker clip is sometimes inserted into the lesion. These are approximately 2mm in size and made from titanium. These are used to locate the lesion should we need to remove it surgically. If no further action is required, this marker clip can remain in place permanently.

If you are at all concerned please contact:

Breast Care Clinical Nurse Specialists
Queen Elizabeth Hospital: **0121 371 4499**
Solihull Hospital: **0121 424 5306**

Notes

