

Breast Center

Ultrasound Guided Core Needle Biopsy

An ultrasound guided core needle biopsy is a non-surgical procedure that takes a sample of breast tissue for pathological diagnosis. The procedure is performed by a radiologist with the assistance of a sonographer. During the procedure, the patient lies down on an exam table. The breast is scanned using an ultrasound machine.

Once the area of concern is located, the skin is prepped with an antiseptic soap and draped with sterile linen. The radiologist then numbs the area with local anesthesia. A nick is made in the skin to allow the biopsy needle to enter. Three to five samples are normally taken to allow the pathologist to make an accurate study of the tissue. The area is not totally removed.

The incision does not require sutures and is simply covered with steri-strips or a band-aid following the procedure. This procedure will not leave a scar within the breast tissue to affect future mammograms, as a surgical biopsy sometimes does.

Not everyone meets the criteria for an ultrasound guided core needle biopsy. The radiologist makes the final decision. If the pathology report indicates cancer, you should discuss specific treatment options with your physician.

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If you are scheduled for an ultrasound guided core needle biopsy, we ask you to check with your health care provider to obtain permission to discontinue aspirin (or blood thinning medication) for five days before your procedure. On the day of the procedure, you should wear a comfortable, two-piece outfit and a bra. Please report directly to the West Chester Medical Center Ultrasound department. After the procedure, you should be able to return to normal activity.

If you have questions about the procedure or the instructions, please call the Ultrasound department at 513-298-8949.

West Chester Medical Center

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