

Ultrasound guided Vacuum Core Biopsy

A guide to your procedure



Patient Information

This will not cause any discomfort following the procedure, does not set off alarms at airports and is compatible with MRI scanners

- Once the biopsy needle is removed we will apply firm pressure to the area for approximately 10 - 15 minutes in order to limit bleeding and bruising. Paper stitches are applied to seal the skin incision and instructions regarding your aftercare are given and explained and post-procedural images may be taken
- We ask that you remain in the department for approximately half an hour. Your breast will then be checked before you leave.

Aftercare

The effect of the local anaesthetic will wear off in approximately 3 - 4 hours, at which stage you may wish to take further pain relief.

PLEASE DO NOT TAKE ANY PREPARATIONS CONTAINING ASPIRIN.

Paracetamol or Paracodol is recommended unless otherwise indicated.

Physical exertion should be avoided and rest is advised for the remainder of the day. Advice will be given on return to work and/or resumption of physical activities.

Results

This tissue samples are sent to the Royal Hospital laboratories for analysis which takes approximately one week.

Your results will then be discussed at the Ulster Hospital Breast Multi-Disciplinary meeting, usually the following Thursday.

Further to this a breast care nurse will contact you to arrange an appointment to receive your results.



Understanding the procedure

This leaflet aims to explain what an ultrasound guided vacuum core biopsy entails and to answer some of the questions you may have.

We will be happy to answer any further questions you may have on the day of your appointment.

Why do I need a Vacuum Core Biopsy?

Although you may already have had a needle test of your breast to analyse some cells, this procedure is used to obtain a larger sample of tissue in order to provide a more accurate diagnosis by using a vacuum/suction system.

What preparations do I need to make before a vacuum biopsy?

1. If you are taking medication to thin your blood, (for example: Aspirin, Warfarin, Plavix, Clopidogrel, Rivaroxaban or Clexane/Enoxaparin)

.....**please contact:**

THE BREAST UNIT

Tel: **(028) 9055 3229**

to receive advice at **least 1 week prior to your appointment**

2. Please ensure you have arrangements in place for your journey home as we discourage driving immediately after the procedure and prefer that you are accompanied

Be prepared to spend about *2 hours* in the Breast Unit

3. Wash your breasts and underarms thoroughly and do not use powder, lotion or deodorant
4. Please have something to eat on the day of your appointment

→ DO NOT FAST

5. Please wear a tight fitting, non-wired supportive bra
6. To simplify undressing and dressing, wear loose fitting clothes with a separate top and bottom.



The procedure

On arrival at the Breast and Endocrine Unit the procedure will be discussed with you in detail.

- The benefits and risks will be outlined before your consent is obtained. Further imaging will be performed at this stage if required
- The procedure will be performed in the Ultrasound room. You will be asked to lie on a couch and the breast will be scanned in order to identify the area of concern.

We aim to ensure you are as comfortable as possible as it is imperative that you remain still throughout the procedure

- Local anaesthetic will be injected into the breast to numb the biopsy site.
- Once the area is numb, a small incision will be made in the skin, the biopsy needle inserted and the tissue samples taken
- In order to identify the biopsy site for future reference, a tiny metal marker will be inserted.