

Pre-stereotactic core biopsy

Patient preparation instructions

An appointment at Cabrini Medical Imaging will be made for you by your breast specialist doctor. If you are taking any blood thinning medication, please ask your specialist if and when you should stop taking the medication prior to the procedure.

Please allow 60 minutes for the procedure, and up to 30 minutes afterwards, for rest and recovery.

Do not plan to drive home after the procedure. Please arrange for a friend or family member to drop you off and to drive you home afterwards. You should allow for not working for the rest of the day, but most women feel able to return to work the next day.

What will happen on the day?

After you arrive in the medical imaging department, you will be shown to a private area where a nurse will ask you some questions about your medical history that is relevant to this test, and take details of any medication that you are currently taking.

The radiographer will then take you to the mammography room and explain what will happen during the procedure. You will then be asked to sit or lie on a chair like a dentist's chair. Some preliminary images are taken, then the radiology doctor will inject local anaesthetic into the area to be biopsied.

Using specialised equipment, a needle is used to withdraw tissue samples from the breast. When the radiologist is satisfied that the tissue sampling is complete, the needle is removed from the breast and you will be made more comfortable.

Occasionally, depending on your referring practitioner's preferences and the type and size of lesion being sampled, the radiologist might recommend a small surgical marker clip be introduced into the biopsied lesion. This enables the lesion to be more accurately located on subsequent imaging. A mammogram may also be performed to ensure correct clip placement. Everything that will happen is explained beforehand, and you are free to ask questions before and during the procedure.

Results

The breast tissue specimens will be sent to the Cabrini Pathology department immediately after the procedure and results will be available within a few days.

How much will this cost?

Medicare will cover some but not all of the medical imaging costs involved, even if on a pension or concession card. The out of pocket costs may vary from \$250 to \$1000

You will receive a separate invoice from pathology. The amount will vary depending on the total number of nodules requiring sampling. The maximum out of pocket cost for pathology is \$200

Questions

For more information, please contact Cabrini Medical Imaging using the number below.