

Ultrasound guided breast core biopsy

Patient preparation instructions

You have been asked by your doctor to undergo a breast core biopsy. This will be performed by Cabrini Medical Imaging at either Malvern or Brighton.

What is involved?

After changing into a hospital gown, a staff member will discuss with you the steps involved in performing the biopsy.

You will then be required to lie on an examination couch and a preliminary scan will be performed by the sonographer in order to locate the relevant breast nodule.

After further discussion regarding the procedure, a radiologist will then apply an antiseptic solution to the skin. Under ultrasound guidance, the area of interest is numbed with local anaesthetic. You may feel a few moments of discomfort at this stage, before the area becomes numb.

Again under ultrasound guidance, a needle is passed into the breast nodule in order to obtain a sample of tissue. You may hear a loud clicking sound as the sample is obtained and feel a moment of pressure in the breast. This process is usually repeated several times in order to obtain adequate samples.

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 nodule. This enables the lesion to be more accurately located on subsequent imaging. A mammogram may also be performed to ensure correct clip placement. Unfortunately the cost of the clip is not covered by Medicare at this stage.

At the end of the procedure, a dressing will be applied

to the breast and the samples sent to pathology for analysis.

What preparation is required?

No specific preparation is required for this procedure. Continue taking prescribed medications, however if using blood thinners, please contact the department for advice.

How long will this take?

The procedure will take between 30 to 60 minutes, however the actual sampling takes only a few minutes.

Are there any after effects?

You are free to carry out your normal activities after the procedure, however you may feel a little bruised in the sampled area for a few days following. You may take non-aspirin based pain relief if required.

If in the subsequent few days the skin around the area where the needle entered feels hot and inflamed, or you feel generally unwell, contact your referring doctor or your GP. You may also contact the Medical Imaging department on 03 9508 1444.

Results

Your doctor will receive the pathology results usually within two business 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 amount will depend on the number of nodules biopsied, with the maximum out of pocket cost for a single nodule breast core biopsy

being \$370. If extra nodules require biopsy, or surgical clips and mammogram are required, the out of pocket costs may vary from \$400 to \$1000. **It will not be known at the time of booking exactly how many clips will be inserted during your biopsy.**

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.

Important

It is important to bring with you your referral, and any other breast imaging or reports (only if previous ones were **not** done at Cabrini or I-MED).

Questions

For more information or to make an appointment, please contact Cabrini Medical Imaging using the relevant number below.