



Breast Biopsy

Definition: Removal of a lump or cyst from the breast.

Reasons for the procedure: Signs or symptoms that may indicate breast cancer or that the results of mammography are suggestive of breast cancer. Pathologic examination of the removed tissue aids in the diagnosis.

Description of Procedure: An incision is made over the cyst or lump to be removed, the bleeding is controlled with sutures or electrocautery and the skin is closed with sutures that are self dissolving.

Possible Complications: Some of the possible complications are: excessive bleeding, surgical –wound infection, or an unsightly scar on the breast. In cases of a large biopsy or if the tissue removed is close to the skin, there can be some minor changes in the contour of the breast. Fluid accumulation, edema, sometimes occurs from the surgery; this usually regresses spontaneously or on occasion is drained with a needle in the office.

Post operative instructions:

- Return appointment: Make your post-op appointment now for 2 weeks from the date of the surgery.
- Anesthesia: Biopsy is performed under local or general anesthesia.
- Activity: Have someone drive you home from the procedure. Resume driving 3-5 days after returning home. To help aid in recovery, resume daily activities, including work, as soon as possible. Avoid rigorous exercise for 2 weeks after surgery.
- Pain: Prescription pain medication should only be required for 2-7 days following the procedure. You may use non-prescription medication, such as acetaminophen, for minor pain.
- Wound care: A hard ridge will form along the incision, as it heals the ridge will recede. Bathe and shower as usual. Wash the incision gently with mild unscented soap and apply bandages to the surgical wound; wear a supportive bra.

Notify your physician if you have any of the following:

- If pain, swelling, redness, drainage or bleeding increase in the surgical area.
- Signs of infection: headache, muscle aches, dizziness, fever or a general ill feeling.