

What is Vacuum Assisted Breast Biopsy (eg. Mammotome, SenoRx)

Breast Biopsy is a procedure where sample tissue from the suspicious area of the breast is taken so that a pathological test may be conducted. Vacuum Assisted Breast Biopsy is a way of obtaining the breast tissue. Using a special probe, a small incision is made at the area of concern, and the probe gently vacuums, cuts and removes tissue for examination and evaluation. The samples are passed through the hollow chamber of the probe into a collection chamber and sent for pathology.

I have read and understood the information on 'Vacuum Assisted Breast Biopsy' and agree to proceed with the examination

Patient's Name: _____

PP/IC No: _____

Date: _____

Patient's Signature: _____

Attended by Staff (Name): _____

Remark: _____

Staff's Signature: _____

Date: _____



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VACUUM ASSISTED BREAST BIOPSY

Vacuum Assisted Breast Biopsy



How should I prepare for the procedure?

Please inform us if you are:

- Taking Anti-coagulants medication (blood thinners such as Warfarin or Heparin). These must be stopped for several days before the scheduled procedure. This will have to be done in conjunction with advice from your physician.
- Taking Aspirin, Advil, Nsaids (such as Ponstan, taken mainly for pain or arthritis), Vitamin E or Fish Oil. They can affect blood clotting especially if taken on a long term or regular basis and should not be taken for 7 days before and 2 days after the biopsy.
- Allergic or unresponsive to local anaesthetic injections, such as Lignocaine or any other medication.

On the day of the biopsy procedure, eat a light breakfast or lunch prior to the biopsy, limiting fluids, unless otherwise directed by your Surgeon. Wash your breasts and underarms thoroughly with soap and water. Wear loose-fitting, two piece clothing to simplify dressing and undressing. Wear brassiere.

What is the procedure like?

- Patient positioning depends on the imaging method that is used. Under ultrasound imaging, a doctor will obtain images of the breast tissue while the patient lies on her back. In stereotactic (x-ray) procedure, the patient's breast will be compressed and immobilized as in a Mammogram. In the case of MRI imaging, the patient lies face down on a breast coil.
- The biopsy will be performed under local anaesthesia. The Radiologist will target the area of abnormality. The Surgeon will inject a local anaesthetic and under imaging guidance, insert a special biopsy needle into your breast(s) to obtain the breast biopsy.
- Multiple specimens will be collected. These will be sent to the Pathologist for assessment.
- Your doctor may place a breast clip or marker to mark the biopsy site for future follow-up. This marker is very small and you will not feel it once it is in place.

What happens after the procedure?

- Leave the pressure bandage on for 24 hours after the biopsy. Do not shower or bathe till then.
- Do not remove the steri-strips or transparent plastic dressing over the wound till 3 days after the biopsy.
- Dry this area each time you shower or bathe.
- You may use some antiseptic cream on the biopsy site if you choose to but this is not necessary. There may be some bruising at the area where the needle entered the skin.
- if you need to take something for pain or discomfort, take Paracetamol or similiar. Do not take Aspirin or medications containing Aspirin.
- Do not participate in strenuous activities for 24 hours eg. tennis, weightlifting, aerobics. No swimming for one week.
- Watch for excessive bleeding, pain or swelling. If any of these occur, please contact your Surgeon.
- Make an appointment to return to the office of your Surgeon to review the results of your biopsy and have your biopsy site examined.
- Results usually take two to three days to be processed by the pathologist. These will be sent to your Surgeon.

What are the benefits vs risks?

BENEFITS OF THE PROCEDURE

A definitive diagnosis of the breast abnormality can usually, but not always, be made. Attempts will be made to completely remove the lesion. This may not be possible due to its size, type or location or if there is a lot of bleeding. In rare instances, biopsy of the targeted abnormality may not be successfully achieved due to complications or technical difficulties.

RISKS OF PROCEDURE

During the biopsy, most patients experience only mild discomfort. Rarely, patients may experience significant bleeding or pain during the biopsy. Following the biopsy, discomfort, tenderness, bruising, and bleeding at the biopsy site is usually mild, but occasionally they are significant. Post-biopsy breast infection and other complications rarely occur. Complications from this biopsy, or any other type of breast biopsy, can delay subsequent breast surgery. Rarely, patients may have an allergic reaction to the local anaesthetic.

What are the alternatives to Vacuum Assisted Breast Biopsy?

The abnormal area can be removed by surgical excision, which is usually a more extensive procedure, with approximately the same accuracy as a Vacuum Assisted Breast Biopsy. A Vacuum Assisted Breast Biopsy is an advanced form of core biopsy that allows multiple tissue samples to be removed with each needle insertion. The biopsy can be done by core biopsy or fine-needle aspiration techniques, which usually gives a less definitive diagnosis. Alternatively, the abnormality can be followed on serial mammograms or ultrasound scans and not biopsied at all. This approach is used when there is deemed to be a very low likelihood of breast cancer.

