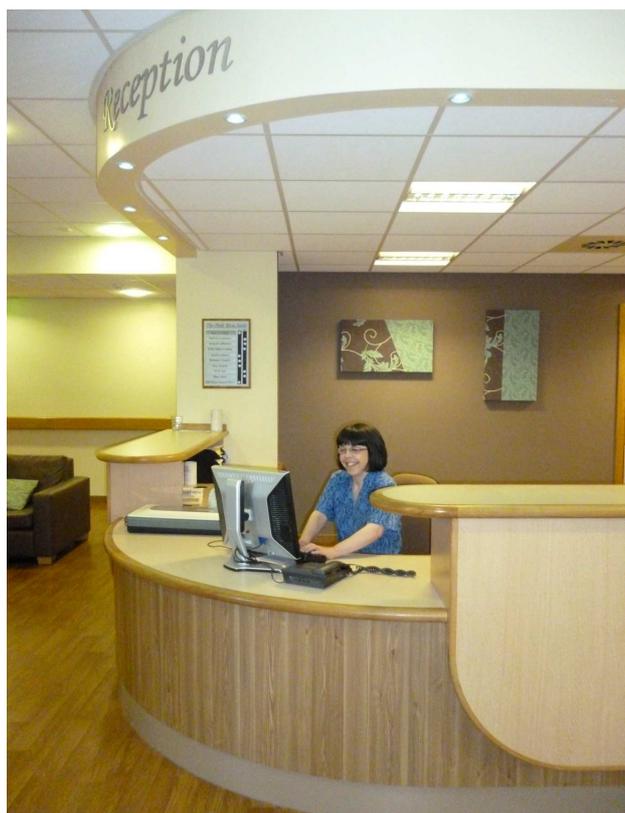


Information about your Breast Biopsy

Breast Care Unit Clinical Support Services

This leaflet has been designed to give you important information about your procedure, and to answer some common queries that you may have.



Information for patients and visitors

Introduction

This leaflet is designed to give you some information about the breast biopsy, what to expect, aftercare and possible complications.

What is a breast biopsy?

A breast biopsy is a procedure where a small piece of tissue is taken from the lump or area of concern. This is sent to the Pathologist who will look at it under a microscope to see if the tissue is normal or abnormal.

Preparation

No special preparation is required but you need to let us know if you are taking any medication to thin the blood or have a blood clotting disorder.

What does it involve?

The breast biopsy is usually performed under ultrasound guidance.

After the breast has been scanned the area is cleaned before an injection of local anaesthetic is given to numb the area. This may sting for a few seconds.

When the area is numb a small nick is made in the skin and the biopsy needle is introduced. You will hear the needle make a loud "click" when the sample is taken. We usually take 2 or 3 samples of tissue.

Sometimes we will also need to do a biopsy of one of the glands (lymph nodes) in the armpit (axilla).

Following the biopsy firm pressure is applied to the area to reduce bruising. The wound is covered by a dressing.

How long will it take?

The scan and biopsy should take no longer than 30 minutes.

How will I get my results?

You will be given the date of your results appointment before you leave the clinic. It is usually 3-10 days after the biopsy.

Occasionally the result is inconclusive and the biopsy has to be repeated.

Aftercare

You will need to avoid any strenuous activity for the next 24 hours such as exercise, hoovering / ironing and lifting heavy objects.

Keep the dressing dry for the next 2 days. You can remove it after 5 days.

Avoid using any perfumed products on the biopsy site e.g. soap or deodorant until the wound has healed.

Benefits

A breast biopsy allows a non-surgical diagnosis to be made. It is a minimally invasive procedure which is generally very safe. The benefits are considered to outweigh the risks.

Risks / Complications

These may include:

- Pain at the site of the biopsy once the local anaesthetic has worn off, usually in about one hour after the biopsy. Take your usual pain relief (not aspirin). A comfortable, soft bra may help
- Bruising at the site of the biopsy may make the lump appear bigger
- Bleeding. If the wound starts to bleed, sit down and apply firm pressure with the tips of your fingers for 10 minutes. If bleeding continues you should contact the hospital on the numbers given below

Information for patients and visitors

Alternatives

There are no alternative methods available.

Contact details

If you have concerns following your biopsy you can contact the breast care team on:

Diana, Princess of Wales Hospital

Mon - Fri 8:30 - 17:00

Breast Care Unit: 03033 303955

Evenings & weekends

Ward B1: 03033 303590

Ward B2: 03033 304391

Scunthorpe General Hospital

Mon - Fri 8:30 - 17:00

Breast Care Nurses: 03033 305084

Evenings & Weekends

Ward 28: 03033 302215

Concerns and Queries

If you have any concerns / queries about any of the services offered by the Trust, in the first instance, please speak to the person providing your care.

For Diana, Princess of Wales Hospital – you can contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on (01472) 875403 or at the PALS office which is situated near the main entrance.

For Scunthorpe General Hospital – you can contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on (01724) 290132 or at the PALS office which situated on C Floor.

Alternatively you can email:
nlg-tr.PALS@nhs.net

Confidentiality and How We Use Data

Personal information on NHS patients is collected and recorded within paper and electronic formats primarily to support high quality care that is safe and effective. To do this, information is also used to support quality improvement activities, investigate any concerns you may raise as well as to support and understand NHS performance. All NHS staff have a legal duty to keep information about you confidential.

Information will only ever be shared with people who have a genuine need for it. Other circumstances where information may be shared include administrative teams to plan future care needed, commissioners of Trust services, other NHS or social care providers and in some cases voluntary sector providers.

Zero Tolerance - Violent, Threatening and Abusive Behaviour

The Trust and its staff are committed to providing high quality care to patients within the department. However, we wish to advise all patients / visitors that the following inappropriate behaviour will not be tolerated:

- Swearing
- Threatening / abusive behaviour
- Verbal / physical abuse

The Trust reserves the right to withdraw from treating patients whom are threatening / abusive / violent and ensuring the removal of those persons from the premises.

All acts of criminal violence and aggression will be notified to the Police immediately.

Risk Management Strategy



Information for patients and visitors

The Trust welcomes comments and suggestions from patients and visitors that could help to reduce risk.

Perhaps you have experienced something whilst in hospital, whilst attending as an outpatient or as a visitor and you felt at risk.

Please tell a member of staff on the ward or in the department you are attending / visiting.

Moving & Handling

The Trust operates a Minimal Lifting Policy, which in essence means patients are only ever lifted by nursing staff in an emergency situation.

Patients are always encouraged to help themselves as much as possible when mobilising, and if unable to do so, equipment may be used to assist in their safe transfer.

If you have any questions regarding moving and handling of patients within the Trust, please speak to a member of staff in the ward or department you are visiting.

Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust

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Scarcho Road
Grimsby
DN33 2BA
01472 874111

Scunthorpe General Hospital
Cliff Gardens
Scunthorpe
DN15 7BH
01724 282282

Goole & District Hospital
Woodland Avenue
Goole
DN14 6RX
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www.nlg.nhs.uk

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