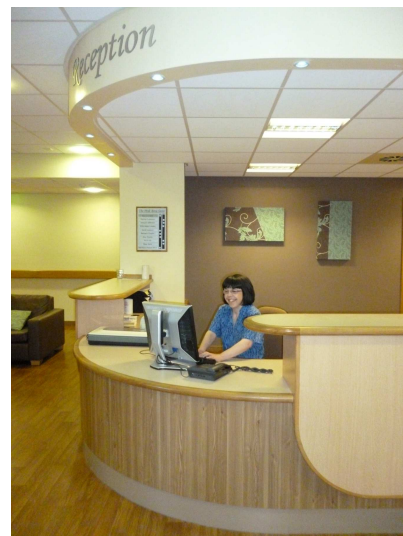


# Information about Your Breast Biopsy



**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Who to contact and how:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Diana, Princess of Wales  
Hospital**  
Scartho Road  
Grimsby  
DN33 2BA  
03033 306999  
[www.nlg.nhs.uk](http://www.nlg.nhs.uk)

**Scunthorpe General  
Hospital**  
Cliff Gardens  
Scunthorpe  
DN15 7BH  
03033 306999  
[www.nlg.nhs.uk](http://www.nlg.nhs.uk)

**Goole & District  
Hospital**  
Woodland Avenue  
Goole  
DN14 6RX  
03033 306999  
[www.nlg.nhs.uk](http://www.nlg.nhs.uk)

# Information for patients

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## 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.

# Information for patients

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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

## 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 306529

### Evenings & Weekends

Laurel Ward: 03033 304424 / 03033 304389

### Scunthorpe General Hospital

**Mon - Fri 8:30 - 17:00**

Breast Care Nurses: 03033 305084

### Evenings & Weekends

Ward 25: 03033 302211

# Information for patients

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## Any Comments, Compliments, Concerns or Complaints

If you have any other concerns please talk to your nurse, therapist or doctor. Our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) are available on 03033 306518 (Grimsby, Scunthorpe and Goole). You can also contact [nlg-tr.PALS@nhs.net](mailto:nlg-tr.PALS@nhs.net)

As a Trust we value equality of access to our information and services, therefore alternative formats available on request at [nlg-tr.interpreters@nhs.net](mailto:nlg-tr.interpreters@nhs.net)

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