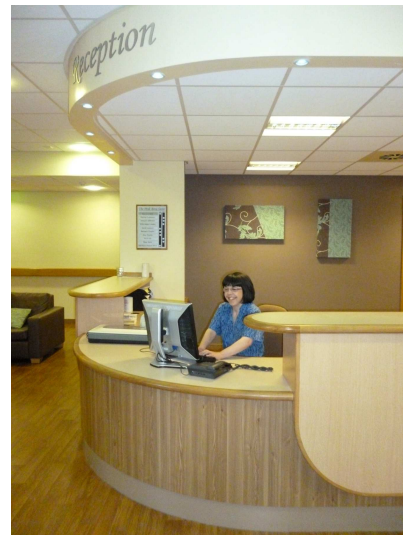


Information about Your Vacuum Breast Biopsy



Name: _____

Who to contact and how: _____

Notes: _____

**Diana, Princess of Wales
Hospital**
Scartho Road
Grimsby
DN33 2BA
03033 306999
www.nlg.nhs.uk

**Scunthorpe General
Hospital**
Cliff Gardens
Scunthorpe
DN15 7BH
03033 306999
www.nlg.nhs.uk

**Goole & District
Hospital**
Woodland Avenue
Goole
DN14 6RX
03033 306999
www.nlg.nhs.uk

Information for patients

Introduction

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

What is a vacuum breast biopsy?

A vacuum breast biopsy uses a special needle attached to a vacuum pump to remove several samples of breast tissue. We do this when the results of the core biopsy may be inconclusive or if the area of concern is small enough to be removed by this procedure. We use either ultrasound or the mammogram image and a computer to guide the needle to the exact location. The tissue samples are sent to the Pathologist who will look at them 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?

If the vacuum biopsy is performed under x-ray guidance you will either sit or lie on your side by the mammogram machine. The radiographer will position you in the machine and take an image to confirm the exact location.

You will remain in that position with the breast compressed whilst the biopsy is performed. It is important that you keep as still as possible.

If the vacuum biopsy is performed under ultrasound guidance you will lie on the ultrasound couch.

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 a buzzing noise when the sample is taken. We usually take several samples of tissue whilst the needle is in your breast.

At the end of the procedure we sometimes place a tiny (2mm) metal (titanium) marker into the area that has been biopsied. This will allow the biopsy site to be seen on future images.

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

If a titanium marker has been inserted a mammogram is performed to check its position.

How long will it take?

The vacuum breast biopsy should take no longer than 30-45 minutes.

Information for patients

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 sample is not adequate or the result is inconclusive and the biopsy has to be repeated.

Aftercare

You must not drive immediately after this procedure. Please arrange for someone to drive you home.

You will need to avoid any strenuous activity for the next 24 hours such as exercise, ironing / hoovering 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 at the site of the biopsy e.g. soap, deodorant until the wound has healed.

Benefits

A vacuum 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.

The titanium marker is made of a non-reactive metal commonly used in surgical procedures e.g. joint replacements. It is not magnetic and will not affect metal detectors or interfere with MRI scans.

Risks / Complications

These may include:

- Pain at the site of the biopsy once the local anaesthetic has worn off – about an hour after the procedure. Take your usual pain relief (not aspirin). A comfortable, soft bra may help
- Bruising at the site of the biopsy
- Bleeding. If the wound starts to bleed, sit down and apply firm pressure with the tips of your fingers for 10 minutes

The mammogram machine uses x-rays to produce the images. Since the breast is a soft tissue structure the amount of radiation used is very small. However this has been taken into account and you have been sent this appointment because your breast consultant feels that this is the best test to investigate your condition.

Alternatives

There are no alternative methods available.

Information for patients

Contact Details

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

Diana, Princess of Wales Hospital

Breast Care Unit: Mon - Fri 8:30 - 17:00 03033 306529

Evenings & Weekends

Laurel Ward: 03033 344424 / 03033 304389

Scunthorpe General Hospital

Breast Care Nurses: Mon - Fri 8:30 - 17:00

03033 305084

Ward 25: Evenings & Weekends

03033 302211

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

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

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