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Understanding ultrasound breast biopsy







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Your doctor has requested a biopsy.

An ultrasound-guided biopsy is an accurate way to obtain the tissue sample required for diagnosis. The procedure requires only a short recovery time and there is little scarring to the breast.

You can rely on Legacy Breast Health Centers to provide prompt results in a compassionate and caring manner. Our Breast Health Centers are designated Breast Imaging Centers of Excellence by the American College of Surgeons, and Legacy has won multiple quality awards for excellence in breast care. Our physicians are board-certified and specialize in breast diagnosis.

What is ultrasound-guided biopsy?

"Biopsy" is the removal of tissue for examination and testing in a laboratory. A biopsy can help diagnose things such as inflammation or cancer. During your biopsy, an imaging physician will use an ultrasound scanner to precisely guide a needle to the site of the biopsy. The needle will then be used to remove a tissue sample.

What you can expect

The ultrasound-guided breast biopsy is performed by a board-certified radiologist who specializes in breast imaging. The radiologist is assisted by an ultrasound technologist who also specializes in breast imaging. Before you arrive, the radiologist will have studied your prior imaging exams to become familiar with the location of the abnormality.

Ultrasound-guided biopsy for accurate results

After checking in, you will be asked to change into a hospital gown and will be escorted to the biopsy suite. Occasionally, additional images may be obtained before the procedure for more precise evaluation.

The technologist will ask you to lie down on the examination table, making sure you are as comfortable as possible.

A radiologist will clean and numb that area by using a local anesthetic. If you have any allergies to local anesthetics, please tell the technologist. The radiologist will insert a biopsy needle into the area to obtain tissue. The special biopsy needle makes a clicking sound as it takes tissue samples.

Most patients feel only mild discomfort and pressure during the exam. If you feel pain, please let us know.

Preparing for biopsy

- Feel free to eat and drink before your biopsy. Please do not use deodorant or talcum powder. Please wear a bra for support after the biopsy, and consider wearing a shirt that fits loosely.
- Please discuss with your Breast Health Center any medications you take, including aspirin, Coumadin/ Warfarin, Plavix or other blood thinners.
- You may also want to consider having someone drive you home after the procedure.



After the biopsy

Most women feel fine after the procedure. Please give yourself 24 hours to rest, and follow the aftercare steps that you are given.

Getting your results

The tissue samples will be sent to a board-certified pathologist at Legacy Laboratory Services for examination. The pathologist will send a report to your doctor within a few days. Your physician will contact you with your biopsy results, typically within two to five days, but results may take longer.