

## RADIOLOGY DEPARTMENT

# Image Guided Vacuum Excision Biopsy Patient Information

## Important Information for patients attending for Breast Imaging

### Introduction

As part of your previous assessment of a possible breast problem an indeterminate lesion has been demonstrated, usually via a breast biopsy, and the multidisciplinary team has recommended a further, more extensive biopsy to fully diagnose the lesion.

This may be done using ultrasound or mammographic guidance. The aim of the biopsy is to obtain more extensive samples of tissue that can be examined under a microscope to help with diagnosis and potential treatment.

### What happens during the examination?

If a vacuum excision biopsy is recommended the Radiologist or Radiographer Advanced Practitioner will explain the procedure. He or she will also be available to answer any questions you may have.

The biopsy may be performed by the Radiologist or Radiographer Advanced Practitioner.

Local anaesthetic is used to numb the area before using a special needle to obtain samples. The local anaesthetic may sting initially, but it should not be painful. In many cases a greater number of samples than during the previous biopsy are obtained to improve the chance of reaching a final diagnosis.

A small metal clip may be inserted into your breast tissue in order to mark the biopsy site for the future. This may stay in place indefinitely. This is safe and should not cause you any harm.

After the procedure the biopsy site will be compressed for a few minutes to stop any bleeding and a dressing will be applied. You should keep this dressing dry for 48 hours, after which time the dressing may be removed.

### Are there any risks or side effects?

During the day of the procedure, patients usually feel quite comfortable because of the local anaesthetic that is injected in to the area, although there may be some stinging and aching both at the time and later on.

There is a risk of bruising at the site of the procedure. It is usually recommended that you avoid heavy work and lifting for approximately 48 hours following a biopsy, but the team can help to advise you at the time depending on your particular circumstances. If possible, you should ask someone to accompany you to the hospital so they can drive you back after the procedure.

As with any procedure that involves a needle there is a very small risk of infection,

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but the procedure is carried out under conditions that reduce this as much as possible.

### Is there any preparation?

No specific preparation is required.

If you take warfarin, clopidogrel or any other blood thinners you should let us know in advance as this may have to be stopped temporarily (see the telephone number below).

### When will you get the results?

You are usually contacted with your test result around 2 weeks after your test. This is to enable the results to be discussed by the multidisciplinary team.

### Finally

Some of your questions should have been answered by this letter, but remember that this is only a starting point for discussion about your treatment with the Doctors looking after you.

### Access to Breast Imaging

How to find us:	West Outpatients entrance and follow the signs to Level 3 Breast Imaging (next to surgical outpatients). You can find more information at: <a href="http://www.nnuh.nhs.uk">www.nnuh.nhs.uk</a>
Hospital transport:	To enquire about hospital transport telephone 0333 240 4100
Contact details:	<b>Telephone:</b> 01603 286728 (Monday-Friday 8.30am-4pm) <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:radiology@nnuh.nhs.uk">radiology@nnuh.nhs.uk</a> <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.nnuh.nhs.uk">www.nnuh.nhs.uk</a>

