

RADIOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Important Information for patients attending for Breast Imaging

Introduction

Your Doctor has referred you to the surgical outpatients department for assessment of a breast problem.

As part of your assessment, you may be asked to have an ultrasound examination to further investigate the problem. If a possible area of abnormality is found at ultrasound, this might require a biopsy. The aim of the biopsy is to obtain samples of tissue that can be examined under a microscope to help with diagnosis and treatment.

What happens during the examination?

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

Local anaesthetic is used to numb the area before using a special needle to obtain samples. The needle makes a clicking noise that may feel similar to being flicked on the skin, but it should not be painful. In most cases the Radiologist will obtain more than one sample to improve the chance of reaching a diagnosis.

After the procedure a light 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, 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 on the day.

When will you get the results?

The Radiology Department will send a report of your scan to the doctor who requested it

immediately after the procedure, and they usually receive the biopsy result around 1 week later.

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: www.nnuh.nhs.uk
Hospital transport:	If you are eligible for hospital transport, please telephone 0333 240 4100
Contact details:	Telephone: 01603 286435 Monday-Friday 8.30am-4pm. Email: nnu-tr.norwichbreastscreening@nhs.net Website: http://www.nnuh.nhs.uk/departments/radiology-nnuh/

