

Important Information for patients attending for Breast Imaging

Introduction

Your doctor has referred you to the Boudicca Breast Unit for assessment of a breast problem.

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

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. Please contact us on the number below to discuss this further if it applies to you.

What happens before the examination?

A Radiology Department Assistant (RDA) will guide you to the ultrasound room and make you comfortable on the couch. They will confirm your details are correct. The Radiologist or Consultant Radiographer carrying out the ultrasound will place warm gel onto the breast and scan with an ultrasound probe.

What happens during the examination?

If a biopsy is recommended the Radiologist or Consultant Radiographer will explain the procedure. They will also answer any questions you may have.

Local anaesthetic is used to numb the area before using a special needle to obtain samples. This injection stings like a bee sting. 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.

What happens after the procedure?

The RDA will apply a plaster if you are not allergic, and a small dressing. You should keep this dressing dry for 48 hours, after which time the dressing may be removed.

Are there any risks or side effects?

There is a very small risk of infection, but the examination is carried out under conditions that reduce this as much as possible.

Avoid getting the dressing wet for 48 hours. You may remove the dressing after this time, or sooner if it causes itching or redness.

There is a risk of bruising. We recommend for you to avoid heavy work and lifting for 48 hours.

If bleeding occurs at the biopsy site, please **apply pressure for 15 minutes** and either sit or lie down. After 15 minutes, check to see if the bleeding has stopped. **Do not remove the dressing that was applied.** If blood has soaked through the dressing, then apply another dressing over this. You may find this easier if someone can help you with this.

If bleeding has not stopped at this point, please **call the Breast Imaging Dept on 01603 286728. Opening times are Monday – Friday 08:00-16:30.**

If the **department is closed, please call your GP**, or attend **Accident and Emergency** for further advice and assessment.

When will you get the results?

The time frame for results is different for each woman depending on if you have been recalled from the Breast Screening Programme or attended the Breast Clinic. You will be informed of the results process before you leave the Breast Imaging Department

How to find us:	West Outpatients entrance and follow the signs to Level 3 The Boudicca Unit and Breast Imaging (through General 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 286728 Monday-Friday 8.30am-4pm. Email: breastimaging@nnuh.nhs.uk Website: www.nnuh.nhs.uk

We aim to provide the best care for every patient. We would like your feedback on the quality of the care you have received from the Hospital. Please visit: <http://ratenhs.uk/IQu9vx> Or scan QR code:

