



Beaumont Hospital



Patient Information
on

Tomosynthesis Guided Breast Biopsy



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Approved by: Breast Care Nurse Specialists

Developed by: Breast Care Nurse Specialists

What is a stereotactic breast biopsy?

This type of breast biopsy is performed by a specially trained consultant radiologist using the mammography machine for guidance.

How should I prepare for the procedure?

You should not wear deodorant, lotion or talcum powder under your arms or on your breasts on the day of the exam.

You should inform the radiology staff if you are taking any of the following blood thinning medications: warfarin, aspirin or clopidogrel
You should inform the radiology staff if there is any possibility that you may be pregnant.

How long will the biopsy last?

A tomosynthesis guided biopsy may take up to 1 hour.

How is the biopsy performed?

You may be asked to lie or sit upright next to the mammography machine. Your breast will be placed on the small x-ray table and a paddle will compress the breast slightly. The paddle will remain in place throughout the procedure.

Tomosynthesis mammography pinpoints the exact location of a breast abnormality by using a computer and x-rays are taken from different angles.

The radiologist will clean the skin over the area with disinfectant and inject local anaesthetic into the area to numb it. A biopsy needle will then be placed into the area and tissue samples will be taken.

You must remain still while the biopsy is being performed.

What will I feel during the biopsy?

You will be awake during the procedure. Most women report little or no pain. If you do feel any pain please tell the Radiologist.

What happens after the biopsy?

Once the biopsy is complete pressure will be applied to stop any bleeding. The area will then be covered with a dressing. You will receive an information leaflet before you leave on how to care for the area.

When will I get my results?

The biopsy will be sent to the pathology laboratory for examination. It can take 10 working days for your results to be available. You will be notified of your results. If you have not received notification please contact breast care nurses (01) 809 3183.

If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact one of the breast care nurse specialists, who will be pleased to assist you.