

Stereotactic Breast Biopsy

Why a Stereotactic Breast Biopsy?

An abnormality in the breast has been detected by mammography. Your physician wants to determine the significance of the abnormality. The Stereotactic Breast Biopsy allows the radiologist to obtain a tissue sample for pathologic examination preventing the need for an open surgical biopsy.

What is a Stereotactic Breast Biopsy?

Stereotactic Breast Biopsy (SBB) is used for the diagnosis of mammographically detected breast lesions. Precise needle placement is determined by the radiologist using computer assisted x-ray techniques.

SBB has a number of advantages over surgical breast biopsy. It eliminates the need for hospitalization and anesthesia, it is performed in an outpatient office, and it can be done for approximately half the cost of an open surgical biopsy. With SBB, there is no external scarring or deformity, and it does not result in residual scar tissue within the breast that may make future mammography interpretations difficult.

SBB is performed by a board certified radiologist who has received additional training in this procedure. A registered technologist will assist the radiologist during the procedure. Prior to the biopsy, a technologist will meet with you to discuss the procedure. The radiologist will evaluate your breast imaging findings and an approach will then be selected to allow the easiest access to the lesion.

Stereotactic guidance is performed with a vacuum-assisted device (VAD) that collects multiple tissue samples with one needle insertion.

Because SBB is considered a surgical procedure, you will be required to sign an informed consent form before the biopsy can be performed. For that consent to be medically legal, you cannot be under the influence of any tranquilizers or anxiety medication. If you feel you need to take those types of medications in order to proceed with your SBB, we request that you inform our staff prior to arriving at our office for your procedure. We will make arrangements with you to obtain your signed informed consent prior to you taking medications prescribed to you by your physician for anxiety.

How is a Stereotactic Breast Biopsy performed?

You will be positioned on a special table that allows the physician access to the breast. A specially mounted mammography x-ray tube obtains stereoscopic images while the breast is compressed. Once the lesion has been localized, local anesthesia is injected, and a small skin incision is made. The radiologist then guides the needle to the lesion and extracts the tissue sample(s) needed for pathological interpretation.

How do I prepare for my Stereotactic Breast Biopsy?

If you take any anti-inflammatory pain relievers, aspirin or blood thinners, discontinue these 5 days prior to the procedure (with your doctor's approval). Take all other medications as prescribed.

Inform our office if you have a cardiac pacemaker/defibrillator, or any other implanted electronic medical device.

It is not necessary to fast before your procedure, but please refrain from eating 4 hours prior to the procedure (unless you are diabetic).

What should I wear?

Wear loose comfortable clothing. A two piece garment is recommended. **Please wear a bra.**

How long does it take?

Please plan on being in the office for 90 minutes.

What can be expected after the exam?

You will be asked to refrain from any strenuous physical activities for 24 hours. You will be given a list of instructions to follow before you leave the office.

When will my physician get the results?

The tissue sample(s) will be sent to the lab. **Your physician** should have the results of your biopsy within 2 business days.