

*Better  
Together*

## Patient information

### Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Guided Breast Biopsy

### Breast Services Directorate

## **MRI Guided Breast Biopsy**

Your hospital doctor has advised you to have a needle biopsy test. The procedure will be performed by a doctor (Radiologist).

### **What is an MRI guided needle biopsy?**

Breast MRI will often identify abnormalities that cannot be seen on the mammogram or breast ultrasound.

When this happens, an MRI directed biopsy is needed to enable your doctor to obtain a small amount of breast tissue, to determine the nature of the abnormality seen on your previous MRI scan.

### **Procedure**

The procedure will be explained to you before you enter the MRI scan room. Your verbal consent will be obtained before the procedure. Please feel free to ask any questions.

The test is carried out in a similar way to your breast MRI. A dye will be injected into your vein during your initial scans to find the exact area to be sampled. It is very important to keep as still as possible so that the area to be sampled does not change.

A piece of equipment is attached to the MRI scan table to help guide the needle to the correct area in the breast. Local anaesthetic will then be injected into your breast to numb the area (you may feel a stinging sensation for a few seconds).

Local anaesthetic is drug-induced numbness: it may be provided by an anaesthetist, surgeon or other healthcare professional, depending on the technique used.

Like all medicines, local anaesthetics may sometimes cause side effects, as well as the effects that are needed. You may experience dizziness, blurred vision, drowsiness and occasionally loss of consciousness.

Serious side effects are rare, and include fits, low blood pressure, slowed breathing and changes in heartbeat, which may be life-threatening. If you have any concerns about any of these effects, you should discuss them with your doctor

Samples are taken and a small metal clip marker is placed routinely at the site of the biopsy. This ensures that the area of concern can be accurately located if it requires removal and can be done using the mammogram.

The metal clip marker is two mm in size .It is made of titanium and has no side effects if left in the breast. It will not set off any alarms in the airports.

The MRI guided biopsy procedure may take up to one and a half hours with most of the time taken performing the initial scans. The actual needle biopsy will take only a few minutes.

## **After the procedure**

The biopsy site is pressed firmly for five to ten minutes to minimise and stop any bruising and a dressing is applied. Please keep the dressing dry and in place for 24 hours.

You will then be taken to the breast unit to have a mammogram to show the position of the clip marker. You will be given an appointment to see the surgeon for your biopsy results within two weeks before you leave the department.

### **What are the risks of having a MRI guided needle biopsy?**

You may feel sore when the local anaesthetic wears off. We would recommend that you take a normal dose of pain killers like paracetamol as required.

You will probably develop some bruising which is usually stopped before you leave the department. If you bleed from the biopsy site after you have left the department, apply gentle pressure for at least ten minutes or until the bleeding stops.

We hope that this leaflet has helped explain the procedure.

### **Further information**

**For further information, you can contact  
The Breast Unit (between 09.00hrs – 17.00hrs)  
Tel: 0151 706 2920**

**Text phone number: 18001 0151 706 2920**

**Or**

**Ward 9Y on Tel: 0151 706 2496 9 (out of hours).  
Text phone number: 18001 0151 706 2496**

# Author: Breast Radiology Team

## Review date: November 2019

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