

MRI Guided Biopsy Information Sheet

You have been asked to attend to have a vacuum assisted biopsy taken using Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) guidance. Tissue samples will be collected by a hollow needle attached to a vacuum pump.

To ensure the correct location for the biopsy you will be re scanned. You will be required to lie on your front as for your previous MRI scans and a contrast agent will be injected into your arm. Once you are in position and the doctor is happy that the area to be biopsied can be seen, your breast will be cleaned with disinfectant. Local anaesthetic will be injected into the area to be biopsied. This may sting a little, but it will soon pass and you should not feel anything other than a little pushing for the remainder of the examination.

The doctor will then make a small nick in the skin through which the biopsy needle will be inserted. You will hear a whirring noise as the samples are collected. The biopsy should only take a few minutes.

Once enough samples have been collected the needle will be removed and a tiny metal marker will be inserted into your breast to mark the area from which the samples were taken.

At the conclusion of the examination, pressure will be applied to the breast to stop the bleeding and reduce the chance of bruising and a dressing will be applied. As soon as the wound is dressed and you feel able, you may return home.

If you experience pain or discomfort after the biopsy you can take simple painkillers such as paracetamol. Please avoid ibuprofen or aspirin which can make the bruising worse. Avoid lifting anything heavy and refrain from sport or housework for 24 hours. This will help the wound to heal. It is advisable to sleep with a non-wired (sports) bra to get some extra support. Keep the wound dry for at least 24 hours.

If you start to bleed again once you return home, please press hard on the dressing. If the wound continues to bleed contact your GP or local A&E department and explain what you have had done.

If you have any questions during working hours please don't hesitate to contact The Nightingale Centre on;.....

You may return to The Nightingale Centre for your results on;

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