

MRI-Guided Breast Biopsy

What is an MRI-guided breast biopsy?

When a doctor uses a needle to remove a small amount of tissue from your breast, it's called a biopsy. When doctors use MRI scans to guide the needle, it's called an MRI-guided breast biopsy.

What are the risks of a biopsy?

The main risks are a little bleeding and a low chance of infection. Most bleeding is minor and happens during and shortly after the biopsy. In some cases, blood collects within the breast, creating a tender lump that looks bruised. This will heal with time like any bruise.

How long does the biopsy take?

Plan on about one hour for a biopsy. The actual biopsy is very fast, but getting images and putting the biopsy guide in place takes some time.

Do I need to prepare for the biopsy?

There are no special instructions. You can eat as usual on the day of your biopsy. You may want to bring a sports bra to wear for comfort after your biopsy.

What happens before the biopsy?

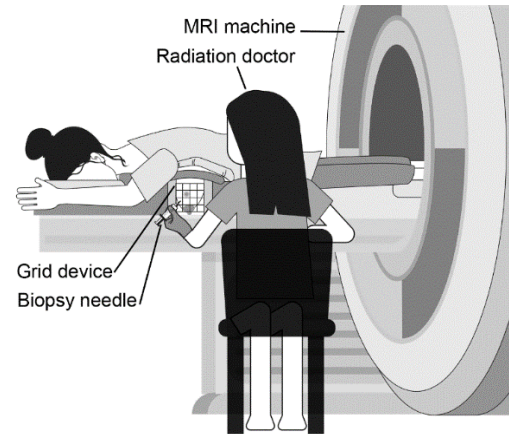
The doctor who will do the biopsy will talk with you and answer your questions. You will sign a consent form.

A technologist will place an IV in your forearm. You will lie face-down on the MRI table. The headrest is open in the center so you can breathe and there is a gap in the table that your breasts will hang through. The rest of the table is padded to keep you comfortable enough to hold still. You will be awake while the biopsy happens.

The technologist will position your breast with a grid device. The grid holds your breast still and maps where the biopsy will be taken. You will feel some pressure, but much less than for a mammogram.

The MRI machine is noisy. You will wear headphones to protect your ears. If you like, you can listen to music.

Several times during the biopsy, the MRI machine will make images of your breast. Each set of images takes 2-5 minutes.



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What happens during the biopsy?

1. When you are in position, the technologist moves the table inside the MRI machine and takes the first set of images. The doctor reviews them.
2. The technologist puts contrast liquid into your IV. The contrast makes the biopsy area show more clearly on the images.
3. The technologist takes more images. The doctor reviews them to find the exact place of the biopsy.
4. You stay in position on the table as it slides out of the MRI machine.
5. The doctor gives you a shot of medicine to numb your breast. You may feel a mild sting and burning sensation as the medicine starts to work. This goes away quickly.
6. The doctor makes a small cut in your skin and places a sterile plastic tube into your breast. This is called a biopsy guide.
7. You slide into the MRI machine for more images to check that the biopsy guide is in the right place.
8. You slide out of the MRI machine. The doctor puts a biopsy needle through the guide and takes small tissue samples. The area is numb, but you may feel a little pressure or vibration. The doctor takes out the needle after getting the samples. The guide stays in place for now.

9. You slide into the MRI machine for more images. The doctor reviews them to see whether more tissue samples are needed. If more are needed, the doctor will repeat step 8.
10. When no more samples are needed, the doctor places a small marker, called a clip, through the guide into the biopsy area.
11. The doctor will take out the guide and press on the wound with a gauze pad to stop it from bleeding.
12. You may now turn over onto your back. The technologist or nurse will keep pressing the biopsy area for 5-10 minutes to help reduce bruising. You will get a bandage over the wound.
13. The technologist will take you to the mammogram machine and take images of your breast to check that the clip is in the right place.

What happens after the biopsy?

You will go home with an ice pack, instructions about how to care for your breast over the next few days, and a phone number to call if you have any questions.

What is a clip?

A clip is a tiny piece of titanium metal. This is the same material used in joint replacements. The clip will show up on future mammograms, but you will not see or feel it, and it will not set off any alarms. It is safe if you need more MRIs in the future.

If the biopsy samples have abnormal or cancer cells and you need surgery, the clip helps doctors confirm the area that the tissue came from. If the samples have no cancer cells, the marker shows that the area was already biopsied.

When will I get the results?

Results are usually ready 3-5 business days after your biopsy. The tissue samples have to process for 1-2 days, then a doctor called a pathologist will look at the samples under a microscope and report the results. This is called a pathology report.

The doctor who did the biopsy will make sure the pathology report matches the images from the procedure. Once this is complete, your care team will call you with the results.

If the biopsy shows no cancer, is any follow-up needed?

Your doctor may recommend having another MRI about 6 months after the biopsy. Occasionally, the pathology report does not match the MRI findings. This is not common, but if this happens, you may need to have another biopsy by surgery.

Should I avoid any activities after the biopsy?

Yes, please follow these guidelines to allow your breast to heal as quickly as possible.

The day of your biopsy

- Avoid any activity that will move or bounce your breasts, such as jogging or vacuuming.
- Do not lift anything heavier than a gallon of milk.
- Do not shower or get your wound wet for 24 hours after the biopsy.
- Follow the instructions you are given to care for the bandage. If you have questions, ask your care team or call the phone number at the end of this sheet.
- Take it easy and consider taking the day off work to rest. If you do work, avoid heavy lifting and any activities that move or bounce your breasts.

The day after your biopsy

- Do not scrub the wound area or put ointments or creams on it.
- You may shower 24 hours after the biopsy. Do not soak your breast in water for at least three days. This allows the wound to close before it is exposed to germs that can be in bath water or pools.
- Return to about half of your normal activity, but pay attention to how you feel. If you feel discomfort, rest for another day or two.

What if I have other questions?

Call the diagnostic care coordinator for mammography at 801-587-4603 if you have any questions or concerns.