

What is MRI breast biopsy?

A biopsy is when a doctor uses a needle to remove a small amount of tissue from your breast to check for cancer or other breast disease. Your doctor may want to do a biopsy after a mammogram shows a suspicious area.

In MRI-guided breast biopsy, doctors use MRI scans to guide the needle.

What are the risks of a biopsy?

The main risks are a little bleeding and low chance of infection. Most bleeding happens during and shortly after the biopsy. Put pressure on the area to help it stop. In some cases, blood collects within the breast, creating a tender lump that looks bruised. This will heal with time like any normal 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?

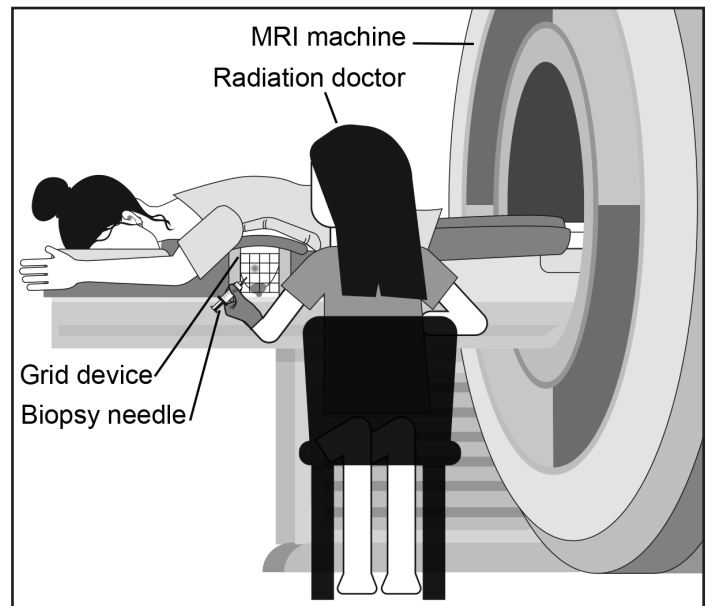
There are no special instructions. You can eat as usual the day of your biopsy. You will be awake while it happens.

What happens before the biopsy?

The doctor who will take the biopsy will talk with you and answer any questions you may have. 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. The part of the table where your upper body rests has a gap that your breasts hang through. The rest of the table is padded so you can be comfortable enough to hold still.

The technologist will position your breast with a grid device. The device holds your breast still during the biopsy. It also maps where the biopsy will be taken. There is some pressure—much less than for a mammogram.



MRI-guided breast biopsy

The MRI machine is noisy. You will wear headphones to protect your ears. If you like, you can choose music to play while the machine is running.

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

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. It goes away quickly.

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6. The doctor may make a small cut in your breast. The doctor puts a sterile plastic tube called the biopsy guide into your breast.
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 and decides if more tissue samples are needed. If more are needed, the doctor will repeat step 8.
10. When no more samples are needed, the doctor will put a tiny piece of metal called a clip into the biopsy guide. It will stay in your breast to mark the biopsy site.
11. The doctor will take out the biopsy 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 on the wound for 5–10 minutes. This will help prevent bruising. You will get a bandage over the wound.
13. The technologist will take you to the mammogram machine and take two images of your breast. The images check that the clip is in the right place.
14. Before you leave for home, you will get these things:
 - An ice pack
 - Instructions about how to care for your breast for the next few days
 - A phone number to call if you have questions or concerns

What is a clip?

A clip is a tiny piece of titanium metal. This is the same material used in joint replacements. You cannot feel it. It won't set off any alarms. The clip will show up in future mammograms. 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 shows where 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?

You will usually get the results 3–5 business days after your biopsy. A doctor called a pathologist will look at the tissue samples under a microscope and report the results. Your care team may call this a pathology report.

The doctor who did the biopsy will make sure the pathology report matches the images from the biopsy. Then we will call to tell you the results.

If the biopsy shows no cancer, is any followup needed?

The doctor may want you to have another MRI 6 months after the biopsy.

Rarely, the pathology report does not match the MRI findings. If this happens, you may need to have a biopsy by surgery.

Should I avoid any activities after the biopsy?

Please do these things so your breast will heal as quickly as possible.

The day of your biopsy

- Avoid any activity that will move or bounce the breast, 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 any questions, ask a member of your care team.
- Take it easy. Most women take the day off work to rest. You may go to work as long as you avoid heavy lifting and activities that move or bounce your breast.

The day after your biopsy

- Do not scrub the wound area or put ointments on it.
- You may shower 24 hours after the biopsy. Do not bathe, swim, or soak in water for at least 3 days after the biopsy.
- 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.