



For more information please visit us online at: <http://www.osmh.on.ca/diagnostics/>

**If you or your support person do not clearly understand the procedure, please ask for clarification**



## Breast BIOPSY

### What is it?

A biopsy is a procedure to collect tissue samples for examination, usually to investigate abnormalities or diagnose conditions. A small tissue sample is taken with a needle or instrument and analyzed in a lab to check for diseases. Biopsies are essential for accurate diagnosis and treatment planning.

A Needle will be introduced into the breast and several pieces of tissue will be removed and sent to the Lab for analysis.

### Why do I need it?

Your doctor may order a biopsy in order to<sup>1</sup>:

- Examine tissue for disease based on a Mammogram or Ultrasound
- To determine if the abnormal tissue is benign (non-cancerous) or malignant (cancerous).



## HOW IS THE PROCEDURE PERFORMED?

### Before

#### Patient Preparation:

You should wear loose-fitting clothing that is easy to change out of. You may want to arrange for someone to drive you home after the procedure. One support person (spouse, friend, caregiver, family member) may accompany you on the day of your appointment, and wait outside of the procedure room.

Please bring a list of the medications you are currently taking and a list of any drug/medication allergies you may have.

You can eat and drink normally before the procedure. You may take your usual medications prior to the procedure. See next page if you take blood thinners.

Please phone the Diagnostic Imaging booking line at 705-325-2201 #3292 for cancellations or rebooking if you are unable to attend your appointment.

#### Bloodwork:

Bloodwork is not required prior to this procedure.



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### Before (Continued)

#### Medication:

Your doctor will also ask you to stop any blood thinners you take (also known as anticoagulation or antiplatelet medications). Talk to your doctor about which medications need to be stopped prior to the procedure, for how long, and when you can safely start them again.

The following medications must be stopped prior to the procedure as per the listed times. Discuss this with your physician if you have concerns about stopping any of the below medications:

Medication		Number of Days to Hold
Enoxaparin	(Lovenox)	Withhold 1 dose before procedure
Dalteparin	(Fragmin)	Withhold 1 dose before procedure
Apixaban	(Eliquis)	Withhold 3 days before procedure
Rivaroxaban	(Xarelto)	Withhold 3 days before procedure
Dabigatran	(Pradaxa)	Withhold 4 days before procedure
Warfarin*	(Coumadin)	Withhold 5 days before procedure until target INR $\leq 1.8$
Clopidogrel	(Plavix)	Withhold 5 days before procedure
ASA	(Aspirin™)	Withhold 5 days before procedure

\*Patients on **Warfarin (Coumadin)** require a new INR drawn 1 day before the procedure.

### Coming to The Hospital

You must first sign-in with **Centralized Patient Scheduling & Registration (CPSR)**, which is located immediately to your left when you enter the hospital from the main entrance (across from the gift shop). You will receive a patient wristband and be directed to the **Diagnostic Imaging department** for your scheduled appointment time.

**Please bring to the hospital your OHIP card and a list of current medications you are taking.**

### During

Biopsies are done in the Mammography or Ultrasound Department of Diagnostic Imaging.

**The duration of your appointment time will be 1-2 hrs.**

1. You will change from above the waist into a hospital gown.
2. A medical radiation technologist (MRT) or sonographer will explain the procedure and answer any questions you have.
3. **Ultrasound:** You will lay on a stretcher and will be awake for the procedure. The process takes about 20 to 30 minutes.  
**Mammography:** You will be under compression sitting in a chair at the Mammography unit.
4. This is an aseptic procedure; the area to be biopsied will be aseptically cleaned and sterile drapes applied.
5. A radiologist will inject a numbing agent, called Lidocaine, at the biopsy site. This freezes the area of the biopsy. This should be the only pain or discomfort during the procedure.
6. The radiologist will use mammography or ultrasound to guide the biopsy needle and take the samples
7. A gauze dressing is applied once the biopsy is completed.



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## WHAT TO EXPECT AFTER



### Recovery & Going Home

You may have some pain at the biopsy site. You may have a small amount of bleeding or bruising from the procedure site.

Bloody or clear nipple discharge may be seen following this procedure. This should subside within 1-2 weeks. Contact your Health Care Provider if it persists.

If you were given medication to help you relax or manage pain during the procedure, then you cannot drive for the next 24 hours. Please arrange for someone to drive you home from the procedure.



### Diet & Activity

- Spend the remainder of the day resting.
- Resume a normal diet. If your stomach is upset, try bland, low-fat foods, for example: plain rice, broiled chicken, toast, and yogurt.
- Drink plenty of fluids to avoid becoming dehydrated.
- Resume normal activities as you feel able to tolerate them, unless otherwise directed by your doctor or the radiologist performing the biopsy.



### Wound Care<sup>2</sup>

- It is normal to feel soreness in the area of the biopsy for 2 – 3 days.
- Keep a dressing / bandage over the biopsy site for the first day.
- After 24 hours you should change the dressing / bandage. You may replace it with a Band-Aid that is big enough to cover the puncture site from the biopsy needle.
- It is important to keep the biopsy site clean and dry.



### Bathing<sup>2</sup>

- You may shower 24 - 48 hours after the biopsy, if your doctor says it is okay. Pat the incision dry.
- **Do not** put creams, lotions, or ointments on the biopsy site.
- **Do not** take a bath, swim, or use a hot tub until the biopsy site is fully healed (no longer has a scab).



### Medication<sup>2</sup>

- **If your doctor or healthcare provider advised you to stop any medications for this procedure then consult with them first about the safety of when you can start your medications again;**
- Otherwise, resume your normal medication schedule.
- If you **normally** take acetylsalicylic acid (Aspirin™) or another blood thinner medication, ask your doctor when to start taking it again. Make sure that you understand exactly what your doctor wants you to do;
- Otherwise, **do not** take (Aspirin™) or anti-inflammatory medicines (such as ibuprofen) for one **week** after the biopsy.



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**WHEN TO SEEK HELP<sup>1</sup>**



**Call 911:**

If you believe you require emergency care – **call 911**. Reasons to call 911 include:

- You have passed out (lose consciousness), or become very dizzy, weak, or less alert
- You experience sudden chest pain and shortness of breath; and/or
- You have severe trouble breathing
- Significant bleeding from the biopsy site (i.e. bright red blood that won't stop)<sup>1</sup>
- You have a fast or uneven pulse



**Call your doctor, healthcare provider, or Health Connect Ontario immediately if you experience<sup>1</sup>:**

- Increased pain, swelling, warmth, or redness at the biopsy site
- Redness or warmth around the biopsy site or pus or blood draining from the biopsy site
- A fever (more than 100°F / 38°C)
- Chills, with or without fever
- Bright red blood has soaked through the bandage / dressing over the biopsy site.
- You have new or worse pain at the biopsy site.
- A fast or skipping heartbeat.
- Bruising or swelling at the biopsy site that is getting bigger.
- An upset stomach and you can't keep fluids down (you're throwing them up).
- Any other concerns.

**Health Connect Ontario may be reached 24-hours a day, including weekends, by:**

- Calling 811
- Calling 1-866-797-0007 (TTY – teletypewriter service)
- Visiting <https://healthconnectontario.health.gov.on.ca/> and selecting “Chat with us”

**BRING THIS INFORMATION PACKAGE WITH YOU SHOULD YOU URGENTLY NEED TO SEE YOUR DOCTOR OR GO TO THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT OF YOUR NEAREST HOSPITAL.**

*Use this material for your information only. It does not replace advice from your doctor or other health care professionals. Do not use this information for diagnosis or treatment. Consult with your health care provider about a specific medical condition.*

**References:**

1. General Biopsy. RadiologyInfo.org For Patients. Accessed June 27, 2023. <https://www.radiologyinfo.org/en/info/biopgen>
2. Needle Biopsy of the Liver. Accessed June 27, 2023. MyHealth.Alberta.ca Network. <https://myhealth.alberta.ca/health/Pages/conditions.aspx?hwid=hw232128>

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