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Needle Localization Breast Biopsy

Your medical doctor or surgeon has recommended that you have a breast biopsy using needle localization. This procedure is used when a woman has a lump or cluster of abnormal calcifications in her breast that cannot be felt during a breast examination. Because the abnormality cannot be felt, the surgeon must be guided to the correct area for a biopsy. This is done using **needle localization**.

The localization procedure is done with the help of a mammography or ultrasound machine on the day of your biopsy. You will be asked to come to the radiology department in the hospital about 2 hours before you are to have the biopsy. There, you will have images taken of your breast. Then, under local anesthesia, a needle will be placed into the breast so that its tip lies near the breast abnormality. This needle will then be fixed in place with tape.

The next step is the biopsy. This is done in the biopsy room. The surgeon will again numb the breast and make a small incision near the needle. The surgeon will follow the needle down to its tip and biopsy the breast tissue. The tissue is sent to the pathology department for diagnosis.

The surgeon will then place a few sutures in the skin to close the wound. A dressing will then be applied, and you will leave the biopsy room.

The localization takes about one hour. The surgical biopsy procedure takes about 45 minutes. You should be able to return to light activity for the remainder of the day. Please leave the dressing on for 24 hours following surgery. It is also a good idea to wear a well fitting bra to give the biopsied breast some support. See reverse side for postoperative suggestions.

You will need to return to your surgeon for suture removal about one week after the biopsy. Suture removal is quick and painless. After that, you may notice a lump at the biopsy site. This is scar tissue and will fade away within a few weeks. You may be asked to return for another examination or mammogram about six months after the biopsy to assure the breast has returned to normal.

If you do not hear from our office within 48 hours of your biopsy, please call us for biopsy results. Please be aware that sometimes pathology takes a little longer. This is no reason to be alarmed.

If at anytime you have concerns, please do not hesitate to call our office.