



Your doctor at Elizabeth Wende Breast Care has recommended that you have a core biopsy,

a minimally invasive biopsy of the breast. During this procedure, a small sample of breast tissue will be collected and sent to a pathology laboratory for testing and diagnosis. A core biopsy is less invasive than an open surgical biopsy and offers advantages including:

- No preparation and minimal recovery time
- Minimal physical or emotional trauma
- Minimal risk of scarring or breast disfigurement

As our patient, you can be confident knowing a core biopsy of the breast will yield the same high-quality results as an open-surgical biopsy, as well as ensure the most accurate diagnosis possible. Should you have any questions after reviewing this brochure, please contact us at: (585) 442-2190. Our entire team at EWBC is here to assist you.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How much breast tissue will be removed?

A: Your doctor will only remove the amount of tissue needed to ensure an accurate diagnosis.

Q: How long will the biopsy take?

A: Although it varies among patients, the average biopsy procedure takes 45 minutes from the time you enter the exam room until the time you leave the office.

Q: Will I have a scar?

A: Visible evidence of where the biopsy device was inserted into the breast is extremely small and fades to a natural skin tone over time.

Q: Will I experience any pain during the procedure?

A: You might feel a slight stinging or pinching sensation as the numbing medication is being inserted into the breast. Numbing the breast prior to the biopsy causes the rest of the procedure to be relatively pain free; however, you may feel some pressure or pinching during the actual biopsy.

Q: What potential side effects should I know about?

A: Your breast may be slightly tender and you may experience some mild bruising at the biopsy site. You will be provided with post-biopsy care instructions.

Core Biopsy of the Breast



EWBC

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EWBC

Elizabeth Wende
Breast Care

Breast Imaging Excellence

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How Is a Core Biopsy Performed?

YOUR CORE BIOPSY WILL BE PERFORMED IN OUR OFFICE. THE ENTIRE PROCEDURE USUALLY TAKES ABOUT 45 MINUTES AND IS COMPLETED IN FOUR OR FIVE STEPS:

1. Imaging the breast to identify the biopsy area
2. Numbing the breast with medication
3. Inserting the biopsy device in the breast to retrieve tissue samples
4. Performing the biopsy
5. Often a tiny clip is placed to mark the biopsy site for future reference

Your biopsy procedure may be performed using the guidance of ultrasound, stereotactic x-ray or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). Depending on the imaging system used, your breast may need to be compressed (similar to a mammogram).

Preparing for Your Core Biopsy

BEFORE YOUR PROCEDURE:

Please inform your doctor of any prescription or over-the-counter medications you are currently taking. These include aspirin, ibuprofen and blood thinners such as Coumadin or Plavix. Some of these medications may need to be temporarily stopped several days prior to your biopsy. Also, provide your physician with a list of any known allergies and include if you are allergic to local anesthetics, epinephrine, tape latex or betadine.

DURING YOUR PROCEDURE:

- After our technologist has positioned you and has performed the necessary breast imaging, the physician will locate the area to be biopsied
- Your skin will then be cleansed with an antiseptic and the biopsy area will be numbed.
- A very small skin incision will be made to help the biopsy device enter the breast with ease. You may feel some pressure as the device is positioned, but most women report feeling little or no pain.
- Multiple tissue samples will be taken for microscopic examination to study the makeup of cells. You may hear a hum, beep or click as the samples are collected.
- The physician will insert a tiny titanium or steel marker or clip at the biopsy site so that its exact location can be easily identified in the future. This marker poses no health or safety risk and you will not feel or notice it after placement.

AFTER YOUR PROCEDURE:

- Pressure will be applied to the biopsy site to help prevent bruising. This usually takes only a few minutes.
- A steri-strip or adhesive gel will be placed over the incision and you will be provided with a cold pack to apply to the biopsy site. In some instances, a compression wrap bandage may be placed around the chest to minimize chances of swelling or bruising.
- A gentle mammogram of the biopsied breast will be performed to confirm placement of the marker site.

Most women resume normal daily activities within 24 hours following their procedure. Your doctor will contact you after receiving your biopsy results and will also provide any necessary instructions for follow-up care.

FOR AN MRI GUIDED BIOPSY: An IV will be inserted in your arm so that a small amount of fluid (contrast agent) can be used to allow the abnormality in the breast tissue to be seen.

FOR A STEREOTACTIC BREAST BIOPSY: You will be lying on your stomach on a special biopsy table. Your breast will be placed through an opening on the table and light compression will be applied to your breast.

FOR AN ULTRASOUND GUIDED BIOPSY: You will be lying on your back on the ultrasound table.

More than 80% of all breast lesions identified for core biopsy are diagnosed as benign or non-cancerous and present no health risk to the patient.