



Stereotactic and Tomosynthesis(3D)-Guided Breast Biopsy

Your physician and our radiologists have recommended that you have a breast biopsy for an abnormality in your breast. At Derry Imaging Center, we have the ability to perform that biopsy under state-of-the-art guidance with 3D tomosynthesis.

- The radiologist will explain the procedure to you in detail before things get started. Any questions you have will be answered.
- You will be sitting in a special chair (Affirm Upright) which can be moved into the best and most comfortable position so that your breast can be positioned correctly in the mammogram machine.
- A 3D tomosynthesis mammogram will be obtained, and from those images, your radiologist and the technologists can determine the best location to place the biopsy device.
- Your skin will be cleansed with an antiseptic. You will be given local anesthesia, which stings for a few seconds then you should be numb. *If you feel sharp pain during the biopsy, tell the radiologist, and you will be given more local anesthesia.*

Once you are numb, the biopsy device will be placed through a small nick in the skin to the abnormality, and several tissue samples will be obtained. If the abnormality involves calcification, the tissue removed will be X-rayed to make sure that the calcifications are actually within the specimen removed, and once a good sample has been obtained, a tiny titanium marker will be placed in the breast at the location of the biopsy. The marker allows a radiologist to guide your surgeon at some point in the future to the correct spot for removal of a larger area of tissue if the biopsy shows a cancer or some other abnormality that needs an operation.

If the tissue removed during the biopsy is benign (of no concern), then the tiny marker will be on all the mammograms you have in the future, but that's the only way you'll know the marker is there -- it causes no pain or discomfort, you can't find it when you do a self-exam, and it doesn't trigger off the airport metal detectors. Results from the biopsy are usually available from the pathology laboratory in 5-7 business days.

The nurse will apply pressure to your breast after the biopsy to minimize bleeding, and then she will apply a dressing. Instructions about what to do from that point will be given to you, and explained by the nurse. After the local anesthesia you were given for the biopsy wears off, you may experience some pain or discomfort in your breast, which will generally respond to whatever you normally take for a headache.

If you have any questions, at any time before, during, or after the procedure, contact our our Breast Health Nurse Navigators at (603) 537-1374.