

Patient information leaflet

Vacuum assisted biopsy of the breast aftercare leaflet

Radiology department

Introduction

During your visit to the breast unit you have had a vacuum assisted biopsy of the breast. This leaflet explains what your care will be after the procedure. If you have any questions, please speak with the breast care nurses.

After the examination/ biopsy

What should I expect after my biopsy?

- Firm pressure will be applied to the area for several minutes to stop any bleeding and reduce bruising.
- Paper stitches will be placed over the wound and a waterproof dressing will be applied over the top. This may be removed after 48 hours, leaving the paper stitches in place for an extra 48 hours, unless they peel off naturally.
- If the wound becomes red and sore in the days following the biopsy, it may have become infected. Please consult your GP. You may develop a small scar. You are likely to experience some bruising over the area that has been sampled. This is normal and will disappear in time.
- If you experience any discomfort, normal pain relievers such as paracetamol may be taken. You should not take aspirin as this may increase bruising.
- You should not undertake any activity which involves excessive arm movement which may cause the biopsy site to bleed for 24 hours following the procedure.

Can I drive after my procedure?

You may drive after your procedure unless specifically advised not to.

How soon can I return to work?

It is advisable you can return to work the following day after your scan, however if your work is physical, we advise that you only carry out light duties the following day.

What are the associated risks?

- A breast biopsy is a safe and common procedure. However, like any procedure there is always the risk that a complication may develop.
- Any bruising should fade within 10 to 14 days.
- Occasionally, there may be an allergic reaction to local anaesthetic, in which case you may be given medication to counteract this.
- Occasionally, the biopsy site might begin to bleed again after the dressing has been applied. If this happens after you return home, remove the top dressing, apply firm pressure to the area until the bleeding stops and replace the top dressing. Avoiding activities which involve excessive arm movement for 24 hours, should reduce this risk.

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When will I get my results?

You will not know the results of your examination immediately. The tissue sample taken at the biopsy is sent to the laboratory for testing. This can take up to two weeks and we will send you an appointment to discuss the results.

Contacting the team

If you have any further questions about your procedure or an existing appointment, please contact the breast unit **(Monday to Friday, 8am to 5pm)** on **01279 827046**

If you have any queries **outside of working hours (after 5pm and on weekends)** please leave a message.

If you have any concerns on your return home, please contact the breast care nurses on **01279 827301** for advice.

Your feedback matters

If you would like to give feedback on your care, please contact our patient experience team on paht.pals@nhs.net or 01279 827211.

Please contact the communications team on paht.communications@nhs.net if you would like this leaflet in another language or format.