

Interpreting Your Results

A pathologist will examine the removed specimen and make a final diagnosis. The breast clinic staff or referring physician will share the results with you when they are available. The radiologist will also evaluate the results of the biopsy to make sure that the pathology and image findings correlate with one another.



The Best Partner for Your Breast Health

While the idea of a breast biopsy may make you feel slightly unnerved, or evenscared, it is the next best step to diagnosing your condition and ensuring you're on the right path for treatment. If you have an abnormal biopsy result that requires further treatment, our multidisciplinary team of oncologists, surgeons, and radiologists, along with other medical professionals, will use their clinical expertise and highly specialized technology to provide you with the best individualized care.

Call 216-957-2778 (BRST)
to schedule your annual
mammogram.

MetroHealth is one of a few Ohio hospitals who participate in the Breast and Cervical Cancer Project, which provides payment assistance for screening, diagnosis, and treatment. To find out if you qualify, call 419-335-3907.

MyChart
metrohealth.org/mychart



Breast Health

Breast Biopsies

If you had a mammogram and your results showed a breast abnormality, then your provider may recommend an image-guided breast biopsy. This is a minimally invasive procedure to assess a suspicious mass or calcifications, abnormal lymph nodes, or a distortion in the structure of the breast tissue.

There are three main types of image-guided breast biopsies:

1

Ultrasound-guided breast biopsy



2

Stereotactic (X-ray)-guided breast biopsy



3

MRI-guided breast biopsy



All three methods guide the radiologist to the abnormality seen on previous imaging, typically a mammogram or breast ultrasound. During the procedure, cells are removed from a suspicious area in the breast and examined under a microscope to determine a diagnosis. Image-guided biopsies are not designed to remove the entire lesion, but to only obtain a small sample of the abnormality for further analysis.

Biopsy Benefits & Risks

Benefits

- Minimally invasive
- Little or no scarring
- Performed in less than an hour
- Brief recovery time

Risks

- Bleeding and forming a hematoma
- Infection with any procedure in which the skin is penetrated

Preparing for Your Breast Biopsy

Image-guided procedures are performed on an outpatient basis by a specially trained radiologist. The average biopsy takes 60 minutes from the time you enter the exam room until the time you leave the office.

Medications

Before your procedure, inform your doctor of any prescription or over-the-counter medications you are currently taking, including aspirin, ibuprofen, and blood thinners. Some of these medications may need to be temporarily stopped several days prior to your biopsy.

Allergies

You'll also need to provide your physician with a list of any known allergies, including allergies to local anesthetics, epinephrine, tape, latex, or betadine.

Health Conditions

It's also important to inform the technologist or radiologist if you have any serious health problems or recently had surgery. **Always inform your physician or technologist if there is any possibility that you are pregnant.**

What to Expect

During

After the technologist positions you and performs the necessary breast imaging, the physician will locate the area to be biopsied.

- Your skin will be cleansed with an antiseptic and the biopsy area will be numbed.
- The physician will make a very small skin incision 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 make-up of the cells. You may hear a hum, beep, or click as the samples are collected.
- The physician will insert a tiny marker 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

- Pressure will be applied to the biopsy site to help prevent excessive bruising and stop bleeding. This usually takes only a few minutes.
- A steri-strip and bandage will be placed over the incision, and a cold pack will be provided to apply to the biopsy site.
- A gentle mammogram of the biopsied breast will be performed to confirm placement of the biopsy site.
- You'll be done in under an hour, and your recovery time is short. You should be able to resume normal activities after 24 hours.