

After your breast biopsy

Information for patients

Please read this leaflet following your breast biopsy and note the contact details at the end of this leaflet.

Patient information following a breast biopsy

You have had a breast core biopsy performed at the Breast Clinic or in the Mammogram department today.

Whilst most people do not experience any problems following this procedure, this leaflet includes some general advice to care for your breast. We have also included some contact numbers should you experience any problems when you go home.

Your GP will be informed that you have had a breast core biopsy performed and that you will be returning in approximately 2-3 weeks for the results of the biopsy. Sometimes we will call you with the results but we will let you know you if this is going to be the case.

If the doctors or nurses looking after you today feel you need assistance to care for your biopsy site when you go home, they will contact your District Nurse so that someone can visit you at home. We will advise you if we think that this is necessary.

Breast care following your breast biopsy

Please remove the dressing applied to your breast in the clinic after 24 hours. If you have paper stitches in place or surgical glue, then leave them until they both come off on their own. The paper stitches may just need a little help to come off if they are still in place a week after your biopsy.

Your breast may appear bruised and feel hard at the site where the biopsy needle entered the skin or over your breast lump. This is to be expected, but please report any excessive swelling and/or bruising of the breast using the contact details at the end of this leaflet.

While some people do experience some oozing of blood from the biopsy site, you should report any excessive bleeding that soaks through the dressing or bleeding that continues and is difficult to stop. You are more likely to bleed if you take blood thinning medicine like aspirin, clopidogrel, edoxaban and warfarin.

The risk of developing an infection following a breast biopsy is very low- but please check regularly for any redness and inflammation of the breast or unusual discharge from the core biopsy site. Signs of infection can also include feeling hot, sick, tired, or if you have pain that will not settle with pain killers.

Pain control following your breast biopsy

The effects of the local anaesthetic injected into your breast usually wear off after approximately four hours. If you do experience any pain after this time, it is advisable that you take your usual pain killers (for example paracetamol or co-codamol). You may need to take pain killers for a few days.

Some women find the support of their bra beneficial following this procedure, whilst others find they prefer to wear a vest or neither. It is safe to wear your normal bra if you wish.

Please report any new or unexpected symptoms to your GP immediately or contact the Breast Clinic within the specified times. Outside of the specified times, dial 111 for NHS 24.

Contact us

Edinburgh Breast Clinic, Western General Hospital

Telephone: **0131 537 2632**

Clinic hours: 8.30am-4pm

Out with clinic times you should contact your healthcare provider or dial 111 for NHS 24, if necessary.

Ward 6, Edinburgh Breast Unit may be contacted for advice

Telephone: **0131 537 1631**