

# Large Core Excision Biopsy

## Information for patients

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You have been given an appointment for a further investigation of your breast, as organised by your breast consultant. At this appointment, you will have a large core excision biopsy- this is where we take a sample of breast tissue to test in the laboratory.

## What happens during a large core excision biopsy?

In order to perform the procedure:

1. You will lie down on a couch/sit in a chair and the radiologist will examine your breast with the ultrasound probe/x-ray machine to ensure the correct area of the breast is seen on the x-ray screen
2. The radiologist will inject local anaesthetic to numb your skin and then insert a larger needle into the breast to take samples of the tissue using ultrasound or x-ray guidance.
3. In order to obtain the sample, the radiologist will make a small cut in the skin to allow the insertion of the biopsy needle. The needle is used with an automated biopsy system to collect the sample.

The whole procedure usually lasts between 2-3 hours.

## Do I need to fast before the test?

No- you may eat and drink as normal before the procedure.

## Possible side effects of this test

### Bruising

You may develop some bruising in the area of the biopsy. This might be painful, but will resolve without treatment in most cases over a few days. We will do our best to minimise this happening. Any mild discomfort will respond to simple painkillers such as Paracetamol.

### Infection

Very rarely, inserting a sterile needle into the breast might result in a mild localised **infection**. If you notice the breast becoming hot, red, and sore or swollen following your test, let your doctor know immediately. If appropriate, they may treat this with a short course of antibiotics.

### Pneumothorax

This is an extremely rare complication of this test. If the needle goes off course, it may cause a small puncture in the lining of the lung. If you become unusually short of breath you should contact your own doctor/NHS 24 immediately. This condition, called pneumothorax, is sometimes treated with a drain inserted into the chest.

## Follow-up

The result of the test will be available in 3 weeks time. After the procedure, we will ensure you have an appointment with your surgeon to receive the results of your test.

## Advice for after the test

After the procedure we advise you not to perform any strenuous arm exercise for the rest of the day.

You may eat and drink as normal.

## Keeping your appointment

If you cannot keep your appointment, or have been given one that is unsuitable, please change it by phoning the number on your appointment letter. Your call will give someone else the chance to be seen and will help us keep waiting times to a minimum.

## Public transport and travel information

**Bus details are available from:**

Lothian Buses on 0131 555 6363 or [www.lothianbuses.co.uk](http://www.lothianbuses.co.uk)

Traveline Scotland on 08712 002 233 or [www.travelinescotland.com](http://www.travelinescotland.com)

**Train details are available from:**

National Rail Enquiries on 03457 484 950 or [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk)

## Interpretation service

### If your appointment is at Western General Hospital:

If you feel that you would need an interpreter, please phone the Mammography Department at the Western General Hospital on **0131 537 1622**. We can then arrange for an interpreter for you.

### If your appointment is at Ardmillan House:

If you feel that you would need an interpreter, please phone the Scottish Breast Screening Programme at Ardmillan House on **0131 537 7400**. We can then arrange for an interpreter for you.

