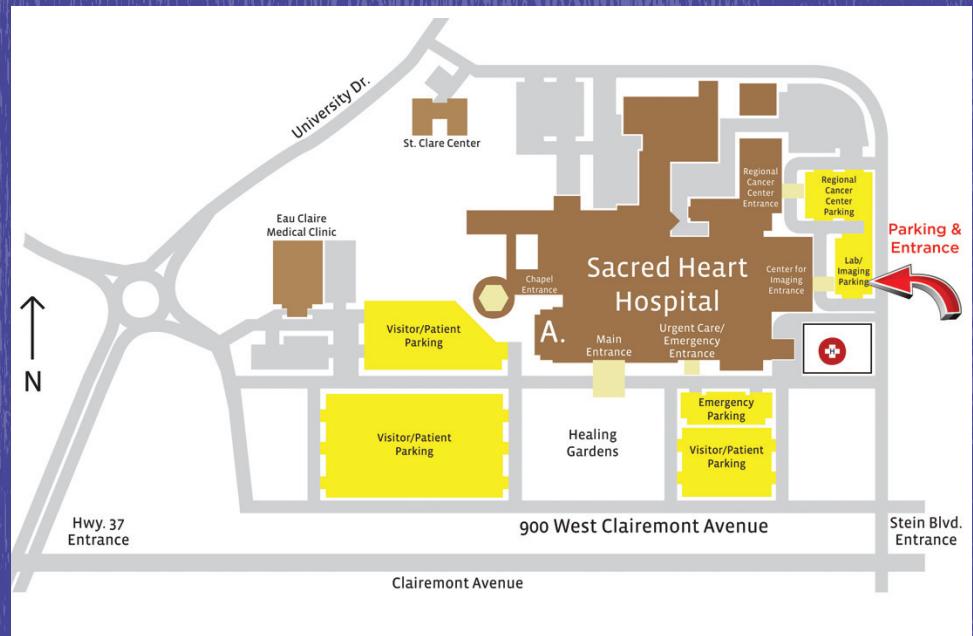


If you have any questions, you can call Radiology at 715-717-6985 or you may call your doctor's office.

Patient Guide



Breast Biopsy



Sacred Heart Hospital

AN AFFILIATE OF HOSPITAL SISTERS HEALTH SYSTEM

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Breast Biopsy

A breast biopsy is a way to take out small amounts of breast tissue using a special needle. The tissue will then be tested for cancer. There are three ways to find the right area in the breast for the biopsy: mammograms taken from different views (stereotactic mammography), ultrasound, and MRI.

Before the Procedure

You will be asked some questions about your health background and the medicines you take. It is very important to let your doctor or nurse know if you take any medicines that slow down the clotting ability of the blood, such as Coumadin, Plavix, aspirin, or medicines with aspirin in them. These medicines may need to be stopped 5-7 days before the procedure, but only as directed by your doctor.

You can eat and drink as usual the day of the procedure. Take your normal medicines except those that have been stopped by your doctor.

When you arrive, you will have some blood taken to check for clotting problems. The procedure will be explained to you. You can ask any questions you have about the biopsy, its risks, or how it will be done. Once your questions have been answered, you will be asked to sign a consent form. You will be offered medicine for your comfort.

During the Procedure

With stereotactic mammography and MRI, you will lie on your stomach on a special table. Your breast will go through a hole in the table. The person doing the procedure (radiologist) will do the biopsy from below the table. Your breast will be compressed just like during a mammogram to find the area to be biopsied. When it is found, pictures from different views will be taken to help the radiologist put the needle in the right place for the biopsy.

With ultrasound, you will lay on your side or back depending on the area of breast to be biopsied.

The skin on your breast will then be cleaned and the radiologist will numb your breast before putting in the needle. Once the needle is in place, pictures are again taken to make sure it is in the right place. The radiologist will then take tissue samples from your breast. The needle will stay in your breast while the samples are being taken. You will hear a click sound with each sample that is taken. The radiologist may take 4-12 samples depending on the area to be biopsied.

After the samples are taken and before the needle is taken out, the radiologist may put a small marker in your breast. This will show where you had the biopsy on future x-rays. This marker is very small and you will not be able to feel it once it is placed in your breast.

The needle is then removed and the nurse or technologist will hold direct pressure for 10 minutes to the biopsy site to stop any bleeding. When the bleeding has stopped a small bandage will be applied.

The biopsy takes about 1 ½ hours. You can get results of your biopsy from your doctor in 2-3 days.

After the Procedure

Your nurse will go over home care instructions with you before you leave the hospital. If you took medicine to help you relax, you will need a driver to take you home. You will have soreness and bruising from the needle that can last a few days. To help take away any pain, you may take acetaminophen (Tylenol), or apply an ice pack to your breast for a few minutes. You should have a follow-up mammogram in six months.