

## Care at home

Your breast will be tender and a little swollen. You might get a bruise at the needle site. This is normal and should go away within a few days.

Return to your regular daily activities. Limit any arm strain on the side you had the biopsy.

### For the next 24 hours:

- Wear a supportive bra.
- Place an ice pack over your bra on the needle site for 10 to 15 minutes at a time.
- If needed, take plain acetaminophen (Tylenol) for pain.

### When to get help

Call your doctor if you have:

- Fever above 38.5°C (101°F), aches and chills
- Redness and warmth around the needle site
- Pain in the breast that gets worse or does not go away with pain medicine

### Go to the nearest Emergency

Department if you have a large amount of swelling of the breast.

## Locations

<b>Abbotsford-Regional Hospital</b> Medical Imaging 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, Fraser Wing 32900 Marshall Road, Abbotsford	604-851-4868
<b>BC Cancer Agency</b> Medical Imaging, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor, 600 West 10 <sup>th</sup> Ave, Vancouver	604-877-6000
<b>Chilliwack General Hospital</b> Medical Imaging, Main Floor 45600 Menholm Rd, Chilliwack	604-795-4122
<b>Delta Hospital</b> Medical Imaging, 5800 Mountain View Boulevard, Delta	604-946-1121
<b>Jim Pattison Outpatient Care and Surgery Centre</b> Medical Imaging, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, 9750 140 <sup>th</sup> Street, Surrey	604-533-3308 ext. 63926
<b>Langley Memorial Hospital</b> Medical Imaging, Main Floor 22051 Fraser Highway, Langley	604-533-6405
<b>Lions Gate Hospital</b> Medical Imaging, Lower Level 231 East 15 <sup>th</sup> Street, North Vancouver	604-984-5775
<b>Mount Saint Joseph Hospital</b> Medical Imaging, Level one 3080 Prince Edward Street, Vancouver	604-877-8323
<b>Peace Arch Hospital</b> Medical Imaging, Main Floor 15521 Russell Ave, White Rock	604-531-5512
<b>Richmond Hospital</b> Medical Imaging, Main Floor 7000 Westminster Hwy, Richmond	604-278-9711
<b>Ridge Meadows Hospital</b> Medical Imaging, Main Floor 11666 Laity St., Maple Ridge	604-463-1800
<b>Royal Columbian Hospital</b> Medical Imaging, Columbia Tower 330 E. Columbia St., New Westminster	604-520-4640
<b>Sechelt Hospital</b> Medical Imaging, 5544 Sunshine Coast Hwy, Sechelt	604-885-8608
<b>Surrey Memorial Hospital</b> Medical Imaging, 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor, Lower Level 13750 96 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, Surrey	604-588-3308
<b>Vancouver General Hospital</b> GI/GU Department, Jim Pattison Pavilion Station 5, Ground Floor, 855 West 12 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vancouver	604-875-4111 Ext 68612

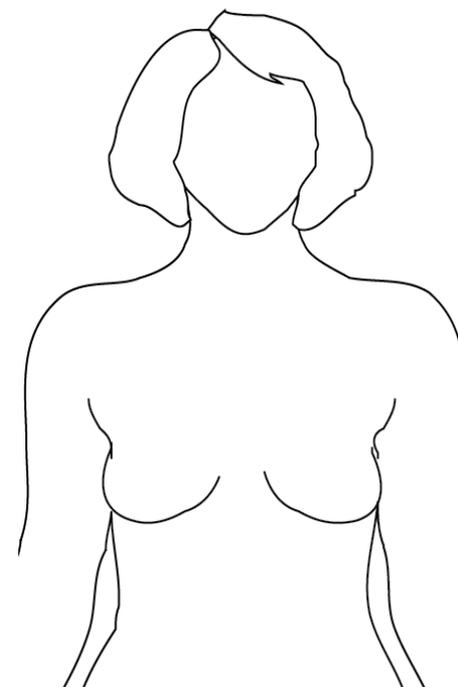
[www.fraserhealth.ca](http://www.fraserhealth.ca) – [www.vch.ca](http://www.vch.ca)

This information does not replace the advice given to you by your healthcare provider.

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# Breast Biopsy



Follow-up Instructions/Appointment:

## What is a Breast Biopsy?

A biopsy is a way of taking a small piece of tissue from your breast. We use ultrasound or MRI images to locate the spot to biopsy. A breast biopsy is done to check for any abnormalities seen on other tests such as an ultrasound, mammogram, or MRI.

## Who does the biopsy?

It is done by a radiologist (a doctor who specializes in image guided procedures).

## Can I bring a relative or friend?

Yes, they can stay with you before and after the procedure. However, for reasons of safety and regulations, they cannot be in the room during the procedure. We will tell you where family members can wait.

## What happens before the biopsy?

Our Medical Imaging Department contacts you with specific instructions on how to prepare for the biopsy.

Your doctor will tell you which **medications you must stop** taking before the biopsy.

**You might need to arrange for a 'responsible adult' to take you home after this procedure.**

**Check with the site where you are scheduled for your biopsy.**

## How long will it take?

It takes about 1 hour. Most people go home right afterwards.

## What happens during the biopsy?

The radiologist uses ultrasound or MRI to confirm the location for the biopsy and the safest approach.

You are given numbing medicine to 'freeze' the skin.

You might feel some pressure when the biopsy needle is inserted.

It is important that you stay very still during the procedure.

Once done and the biopsy needle is removed, we put pressure over the area to stop any bleeding.

## Does it hurt?

It might sting or burn as the numbing medicine is injected. You should not feel any pain as the needle goes in. However, you might feel some pressure and discomfort as the tissue sample is taken.

## Are there any risks or complications?

A breast biopsy is generally a safe procedure. Complications are rare.

Any time the skin is pierced or cut, there is a chance of infection. Other possible complications include:

- bleeding at the site
- bleeding into the surrounding tissue

You can ask questions about the risks before you sign the consent form.

## When will I get the results?

The radiologist can tell you if there is enough tissue for testing.

To find out the results of the test, make an appointment with the doctor who asked for this test.

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**HealthLinkBC**

**8-1-1**

Call any time you have any questions or concerns. HealthLinkBC is open 24 hours.

Available in 130 languages.

For an interpreter, say your language in English. Wait until an interpreter comes on the phone.