

- The surgeon closes your skin with stitches that dissolve over time.
- The tissue samples are sent to our laboratory to be examined for signs of breast cancer or other conditions.

What happens after the biopsy?

We put a bandage over the site of the biopsy and show you how to care for the wound at home. You will have a small scar.

You might want to take the day off work and have someone drive you home.

Your breast will be sore after the biopsy. This is normal. Any soreness and swelling should go away within a few days.

When do I need to get help?

Contact the Breast Health Clinic or your family doctor **right away** if you have any:

- bleeding from the site
- redness around the site
- pain that does not go away with pain medicine

If you cannot get in touch with your doctor or the clinic, go to your nearest Emergency Department.

When do I get the results?

We give you an appointment to return to the Breast Clinic in 7 to 10 days. Your surgeon talks with you about your results at that time.

It's good to ask questions

If you have any questions, please call the Breast Health Clinic.

We are here to support you!

Breast Health Clinic
Jim Pattison
Outpatient Care and Surgery Centre
9750 - 140th Street, Surrey, B.C.
604-582-4563

www.fraserhealth.ca

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

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Fine Wire Breast Biopsy

Jim Pattison
Outpatient Care and Surgery Centre

Monday to Friday
8:00AM to 4:00PM

604-582-4563

 **fraserhealth** Better health.
Best in health care.

Why do I need a biopsy?

A recent mammogram or ultrasound shows a change in your breast tissue. Many tissue changes are harmless, but we want to make sure the change is normal. The only way to be sure your breast is healthy is to remove a small piece of tissue, called a biopsy (sounds like *bye-op-see*).

Since the change in breast tissue is small and cannot be felt easily, we insert a wire into your breast to point to the location for biopsy. This is called a 'fine wire biopsy'. The wire helps guide the surgeon to the breast tissue where the surgeon needs to take a sample.

When and where is the biopsy done?

You return to the Breast Health Clinic for your biopsy.

The booking clerk calls you in about a week.

We give you a date and time for your biopsy that fits your schedule.

How do I prepare for the test?

For one week before your biopsy:

- **Do not** take any medicines or diet supplements that thin your blood. These include:
 - ibuprofen (such as Advil or Motrin) or regular aspirin (ASA)
 - any herbal medicines or diet supplements such as ginkgo, garlic, fish oil

If you are taking low dose aspirin (81mg.) every day, continue to take it.

If you are taking blood thinners (like warfarin, plavix, or dabigatran), arrange to see your family doctor as soon as possible so your blood thinner dose can be adjusted safely before your biopsy.

The day of the biopsy:

- Do not wear deodorant, powder, lotion, or perfume.
- Wear a top that is easy to take off and buttons up at the front.
- Wear a comfortable and supportive bra.
- You can eat or drink but do not eat a big meal right before the biopsy.
- Bring your BC CareCard (personal health card) and photo identification.
- Arrive 20 minutes early to so you have time to park and register.

What should I expect during the biopsy?

- Plan on being here for 2 hours.
- You have a mammogram or an ultrasound so the x-ray doctor (radiologist) can locate the change in breast tissue.
- The radiologist inserts a hollow needle to point to the site for the biopsy.
- The fine wire is threaded through the needle to the biopsy site. One end of the wire is inside your breast and the other end sits just outside your breast.
- We take more images to confirm the wire is pointing to the right place.
- We move you to another room where you lie on a stretcher.
- The breast surgeon injects more freezing around the biopsy site.
- Using a scalpel, the surgeon makes a 1 to 2 inch (2.5 to 5 centimetres) cut beside the wire.
- The surgeon follows the fine wire to the place needing biopsy and removes tissue samples. Once done, the surgeon removes the wire.