



BREAST BIOPSY

Niagara Health is pleased to provide you with general information about your upcoming biopsy.

WHAT IS A BREAST BIOPSY?

A breast biopsy is a procedure that involves using a biopsy needle to remove a sample of your breast tissue so that a pathologist can examine it for breast cancer or other conditions.

HOW LONG IS A TYPICAL BIOPSY?

A biopsy appointment can take up to an hour.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO PREPARE FOR A BIOPSY?

There no preparation needed for a biopsy. Your doctor will inform you if you need to withhold any medications.

HOW IS A BREAST BIOPSY DONE WITH ULTRASOUND?

The doctor will inject a local anesthetic into the skin and more deeply into the breast to numb it. Pressing the transducer to the breast, the sonographer or radiologist will locate the lesion. The radiologist will make a very small nick in the skin at the site where they will insert the biopsy needle.

HOW PAINFUL IS AN ULTRASOUND-GUIDED BIOPSY? HOW DOES THE TEST FEEL?

The ultrasound is painless and does not use radiation. You will feel only a quick sting from the needle if you have a local anesthetic to numb the biopsy area. You may feel pressure when the biopsy needle inserted.

WHAT IS A STEREOTACTIC BIOPSY?

A stereotactic biopsy is done under mammographic guidance. A small dose of radiation is received. The breast is compressed for the whole procedure. The radiologist will inject local anesthetic into the skin and more deeply into the breast to numb it. The radiologist will make a small nick in the skin at the site where they insert the biopsy needle.