Extraordinary patient care. Advanced technology.

More than 80% of breast biopsies are normal.* Early detection through regular mammograms, such improved screening methods as Hologic 3D mammography and monthly breast self-exams help save thousands of lives every year.

Our center is proud to use the most advanced technology available: the Hologic 3D breast biopsy system. The worldwide leader in digital mammography, Hologic is revolutionizing how breast cancer is detected today.

For more information visit:
www.hologic3D.com

* For women facing a breast biopsy, American Cancer Society
What you should know

Your doctor has recommended that you have a breast biopsy to collect a small sample of tissue that will be sent to pathology for testing and diagnosis. This outpatient procedure requires minimal preparation and recovery time. Our facility offers 3D mammography (breast tomosynthesis) and 3D breast biopsy, the most advanced breast cancer screening and minimally invasive X-ray breast biopsy available today. This technology allows your doctor to locate and biopsy small or subtle areas of interest. In most cases, this 3D biopsy procedure will reduce the amount of time and X-ray dose used to collect the tissue sample compared to other X-ray breast biopsy procedures.

Before your procedure

In advance of your biopsy procedure, you should inform your doctor of any medications and vitamins you are currently taking – either prescription or over-the-counter. Your doctor may advise you to stop taking certain medications prior to your scheduled biopsy.

You may also be advised to wear loose clothing for comfort and not to wear deodorant or perfume. Most patients are able to eat and drink normally and perform their typical daily activities before arriving for their breast biopsy.

During your procedure

After you have been positioned for your biopsy – either seated or lying on your side – the technologist will take a 3D image of your breast to determine the location of the suspicious area to be biopsied by your doctor. Your skin will be cleansed with sterilizing solution and numbed with anesthetic. Sometimes, a very small skin nick is made to help the biopsy needle enter the breast with ease.

Typically, multiple tissue samples will be collected through a single incision. A final set of images may then be taken to verify that the intended tissue was collected. Your physician may place a small marker (smaller than a grain of rice) at the biopsy site for future reference to identify the exact location of the biopsy. The marker is made of a metallic alloy (i.e. titanium, stainless steel) and you will not be able to feel or notice the marker after placement.

After your procedure

Pressure will be applied to your breast for a few minutes. A small bandage will be placed over the skin nick, and you may be given an ice pack to apply to the biopsy site. In some instances, a compression wrap bandage may be placed around your chest to minimize chances of swelling or bruising. Your doctor may prescribe a non-aspirin pain reliever to help alleviate any possible discomfort. Detailed instructions will also be provided on how to care for the biopsied area. Most women can resume many of their normal activities the same day as the procedure. Your doctor will advise you of post-biopsy procedure care.

FAQs

Q: How much of the breast tissue or lump will be removed?
A: Only a small sampling of tissue from the suspicious area will be taken.

Q: Am I getting more radiation dose with this 3D biopsy procedure than with a standard X-ray biopsy procedure?
A: The radiation dose during a 3D biopsy procedure is less than that of a standard X-ray biopsy procedure because it replaces several 2D imaging exposures with a single 3D imaging exposure.

Q: How long will the biopsy take?
A: Biopsy times vary depending on each patient’s situation. Typically, the total time in the doctor’s office for a 3D biopsy is 45 minutes from the time you enter the exam room until you leave. The actual procedure to locate and collect the tissue samples is about 15 minutes. This includes the time it takes for the doctor to remove tissue, which is usually less than one minute.

Q: Will I experience any pain during the procedure?
A: Each patient is different, but you might feel a slight sting or pinch when the anesthetic is first being administered to your breast. Numbing the breast prior to the biopsy should make the rest of the procedure as pain-free as possible.

Q: How will I feel after the procedure?
A: Your breast may be slightly tender and you may experience some bruising at the biopsy site. Typically, most women can resume many of their normal activities the same day as the procedure. Your doctor will advise you of post-biopsy procedure care.

Q: How quickly will I receive the results? And what could they mean?
A: Our center understands the anxiety patients feel about having a breast biopsy. So we will do everything possible to make sure your results are read quickly.

Interventional radiology

is a subspecialty of radiology in which minimally invasive procedures are performed using image guidance and biopsy needles. Images provide road maps to guide the doctor as he or she directs the needles to the area(s) of interest.