

## **Patient Information: Breast Stereotactic / Core Biopsy**

### **Procedure Reason**

This type of procedure is done when, after viewing a mammogram, the radiologist is unable to say with certainty that a specific area of interest is benign (noncancerous). The procedure allows the doctor to remove a minimal amount of breast tissue and send it to the pathology lab for testing and a definitive diagnosis. Biopsies are done to determine if a cancer is present so it may be treated in its earliest state.

### **What to Expect**

The biopsy will be performed in an outpatient setting. The entire procedure takes place in five easy steps all done while in compression, similar to when you have a mammogram:

1. Numbing the breast with medicine
2. Imaging the breast to identify the area of interest
3. Inserting a small needle into the breast to retrieve the tissue samples
4. Removing a small amount of tissue
5. Placing a small marker to identify the biopsy site

### **Before the Procedure**

There is no special preparation required for the stereotactic/core biopsy. You may want to wear a comfortable two-piece outfit. You may eat or drink, and perform your normal activities before arriving for your breast biopsy.

You should inform your doctor in advance of any medications you are currently taking, including over-the-counter and vitamins. Some medications, such as aspirin, Coumadin, or other blood thinners must be temporarily stopped several days before the scheduled biopsy.

### **During Your Procedure**

After you have been properly positioned, your breast will be imaged and the area of interest cleaned. The area is numbed and an incision small enough for the biopsy needle to enter is made. You may feel some pressure, but most women feel no pain.

The biopsy will take a very short time. Multiple tissue samples will be collected, final images will be taken, and a titanium site marker will be inserted. This marker poses no health risk and you will not be able to feel or notice it.

### **After Your Procedure**

Pressure will be applied to your breast for a few minutes. An adhesive bandage will be placed over the skin nick, and you will be provided with an ice pack. The technologist will review instructions you are to follow after the procedure. Most women can resume normal daily activities immediately following their procedure. Your doctor will contact you after receiving your biopsy results and then instruct you on any follow-up care.