

## **MRI Guided Breast Biopsy**

Breast MRI has become an important tool in diagnosing and staging breast cancer. Lumps or abnormalities in the breast are often detected by physical examination, mammography, or other imaging studies. However, it is not always possible to tell from these imaging tests whether a growth is benign or cancerous. A breast biopsy is performed to remove some cells from a suspicious area in the breast and examine them under a microscope to determine a diagnosis.

## **The Procedure**

- The MRI technologist will insert an IV line into a vein in your arm. After an initial series of scans, contrast material will be injected through the IV.
- You will lie face down on the padded scanning table and the affected breast will be positioned into openings in the table.
- Your breast will be gently compressed between two compression plates, one of which is marked with a grid structure. Using computer software, the radiologist measures the position of the lesion with respect to the grid and calculates the position and depth for the needle placement.
- The area of the biopsy will be sterilized with alcohol.
- A local anesthetic will be injected into the breast to numb the region.
- A very small nick is made in the skin at the site where the biopsy needle is to be inserted.
- The radiologist then inserts the catheter and advances it to the site of the abnormality and MR imaging is performed to verify its position.
- Once the location is confirmed, a vacuum-assisted device is used to pull tissue from the breast through the catheter into the sampling chamber.
- After this sampling is completed, the catheter will be removed.
- A small clip will be placed at the site; therefore, if needed, the biopsy site can be located in the future.
- Once the biopsy is complete, pressure will be applied to stop any bleeding and the opening in the skin will be closed with Steri-Strips. No sutures are needed.
- A mammogram will be performed to confirm that the clip or clips are in the proper position/location.
- This procedure is usually completed within 60 minutes.

## **Risks**

As with all procedures where the skin is pierced, certain risks do exist. This may include but is not limited to bruising, infection, hematoma (pooling of blood trapped inside the biopsy area), or failure to remove all of the targeted tissue.

## **After the Breast Biopsy**

You may shower after 24 hours (remove the Tegaderm and gauze leaving the Steri-Strips in place). You can remove the Steri-Strips after 5-7 days, sooner if you notice a skin irritation. If you need medication for discomfort, take only Tylenol. You should AVOID aspirin, ibuprofen (Advil), or Aleve for 5 days after the procedure to reduce the incidence of bleeding. Avoid strenuous activity for at least 48 hours after the procedure.

Please contact the Radiologist that performed your biopsy if you experience bleeding, fevers, or chills after the procedure. Normal business hours are 8am-5pm Monday-Friday. If after 5pm, please contact the Immediate Care Center in Lisle.