Breast Localization

Your surgeon has recommended that you have a breast biopsy with a breast localization. The following information will help answer any questions you may have about the needle localization and breast biopsy.

WHAT IS A BREAST LOCALIZATION?
A breast localization is a procedure which helps pinpoint an abnormality within the breast for the surgeon. This abnormality usually is not felt by the surgeon, but can be identified on the mammogram or ultrasound.

WHO PERFORMS THE BREAST LOCALIZATION?
The procedure is performed by a radiologist in the Breast Care Center. A radiologist is a doctor who is specially trained in reviewing x-rays for diagnosis and performing localizations. A radiology technologist also will be present to assist.

WHAT HAPPENS DURING THE BREAST LOCALIZATION?
The radiologist reviews your prior mammogram (and ultrasound, if done) to determine the best method for localizing the area in question. If the localization is for calcifications, you will be sitting in a chair. A preliminary mammogram is done to localize the area, and then the skin is cleaned with an iodine solution. The breast is numbed in the area with xylocaine, a local anesthetic, and then a thin needle (which contains a wire) is inserted. Films are taken to confirm the appropriate needle position. Usually the needle is removed, leaving the wire in the area of abnormality.

If a mass is localized using ultrasound, the procedure begins with you lying on a table. The needle is inserted under ultrasound guidance. This is generally a painless procedure, however some patients experience a slight discomfort. A few drops of blue dye mixed with iodine dye may be injected through the needle to mark the spot in the breast. Mammograms are then taken to assure that the needle is correctly placed. The needle is covered and left in place until your biopsy. You are then escorted to the operating room where the surgeon performs the biopsy.

HOW LONG DOES THE PROCEDURE TAKE?
The entire breast localization takes approximately 30 to 45 minutes.

WHAT IS A BREAST BIOPSY?
A breast biopsy is the removal of a breast lump or the tissue in question. The tissue is looked at under a microscope to see if cancer cells are present.

WHO PERFORMS THE BREAST BIOPSY?
The biopsy is performed by a surgeon.
**HOW LONG DOES THE BIOPSY TAKE?**
The surgical procedure takes approximately 45 minutes to 1 hour.

**WHO WILL LET MY DOCTOR KNOW IF THE ENTIRE SUSPICIOUS AREA WAS REMOVED?**
The tissue removed is usually sent directly to the Breast Care Center to be x-rayed. The radiologist then reviews the x-rays and calls the surgeon to verify that the abnormality has been removed.

**HOW WILL I FEEL AFTER THE BIOPSY?**
Since the majority of biopsies are done under local anesthesia, the patient usually feels quite well. The pain associated with the biopsy procedure is usually easily controlled with simple pain medications. Ask your nurse for pain medication, if needed. You should wear a bra for 5 to 7 days, day and night, to minimize any discomfort. The bandage dressing should be kept dry. Please be sure you have a follow-up appointment with your surgeon.

**WHEN CAN I EXPECT TO KNOW THE RESULTS OF THE BIOPSY?**
The results of your breast biopsy should be available within 48 to 72 hours. The results will be discussed with you by your surgeon at the time of your follow-up visit (approximately 1 week following surgery).

**WILL INSURANCE COVER THESE PROCEDURES?**
Most insurance companies will cover localization and biopsy procedures, however the amount of coverage varies with each plan. It is advised that you discuss this with your insurance company.

**WHAT IF I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?**
You may call the Breast Care Center at 805-4950 if you have further questions.

Enter campus on 87th street and park in Parking Area 2 located under the Clinical Cancer Center. To find the Breast Care Center, take the “K” elevators to the 3rd floor and follow the signs to the Breast Care Center. Please arrive 10 minutes prior to your appointment to complete the registration process.

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS**
Directions to Cancer Center

Please park in the Cancer Center Parking Area 2, located under the building.

From Watertown Plank Road via 92nd Street:
Turn south on 92nd Street. Continue through the stop light at West Connell Court. Turn left onto Doyne Avenue and left onto William Coffey Drive. The Cancer Center Parking Area 2 entrance will be on your left, under the building.

From Watertown Plank Road via 87th Street:
Turn south on 87th Street. You'll come to a stop sign at East Connell Court. Turn left and continue south on 87th Street. Turn right at Doyne Avenue. Follow signs directing you to the Cancer Center. Turn right onto William Coffey Drive. The Cancer Center Parking Area 2 entrance will be on your left, under the building.

From Wisconsin Avenue:
Turn north on 87th or 92nd Street and then onto Doyne Avenue. Follow signs directing you to the Cancer Center. Turn onto William Coffey Drive and the Cancer Center Parking Area 2 entrance will be on your left, under the building.

Once Parked:
Take the M or K Elevators to the floor of your destination.

Only M Elevator accesses lobby level and level one.

The M or K Elevators to the floor of your destination.

Please Note: All of our parking structures and surface lots have accessible parking closest to building entrances. Entrances from our parking structures are all equipped with power doors. The Cancer Center Structure has 23 total accessible parking spaces. Accessible parking spaces are also available at Church Street Garage, 9200 W. Wisconsin Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53226.

Questions? Call 414-605-5715 toll free 866-680-0505 or visit froedtert.com

The Froedtert & The Medical College of Wisconsin mailing address is: 9200 W. Wisconsin Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53226