Why a biopsy?

Your doctor has requested that an abnormal area found on your mammogram be further evaluated.

The biopsy may be performed by either stereotactic or ultrasound guidance. This is a non-surgical way to evaluate a lump or calcifications in the breast, which is detected on mammography or ultrasound.

Stereotactic biopsy combines mammography with a computer-assisted needle biopsy. Our stereotactic system offers 360-degree access to the breast and provides the shortest, safest, most accurate path to the lesion.

Ultrasound guided biopsy uses ultrasound images to direct the biopsy of areas identified on breast ultrasound exams.

What happens?

A radiologist and a technologist will perform your biopsy. You will be asked to remove clothing from the waist up so please wear a comfortable two-piece outfit.

For Stereotactic biopsy you will lie face down, on your stomach, on a specially designed table that features a hole through which the breast protrudes. The technologist will compress your breast (similar to a mammogram) and locate the area in question. Computerized x-ray images will be taken to pinpoint the area to be biopsied. The radiologist will use a special computer to assist in placing the needle in the precise location of the lesion.

For Ultrasound guided biopsy you will lay face-up on your back or on your side. The radiologist and technologist will locate the area to be biopsied using ultrasound imaging.

For both stereotactic and ultrasound guided procedures, the biopsy site will be numbed with a local anesthetic. Five or more tissue samples are taken and the samples are sent to the Kettering Medical Center laboratory for analysis. The biopsy site will not need stitches and will be closed with a skin glue, Dermabond.

The entire procedure will take about an hour. There is only minor discomfort during the procedure, but it is very important that you remain still the entire time.

After the biopsy

Once the biopsy is completed you will be allowed to sit up. The technologist will place pressure on your breast for several minutes. This helps prevent bleeding and bruising. A cold pack will also be placed on your breast that you will take home. The technologist may place a bandage over the biopsy site.

You may experience some tenderness in your breast. Some light bleeding or bruising may occur at the biopsy site. Most women are able to resume light activities the day of the biopsy and then return to normal activities the next day. A breast health specialist may call you the next day to see how you are doing.

Results

The breast health specialist or your referring physician will notify you of your results. If your biopsy was benign (non-cancerous), you will still need to follow-up with your physician. If your biopsy result is positive (for cancer), your physician will discuss treatment options with you.
Preparing for your biopsy

Do not take aspirin or blood thinning drugs 5 days before and after your biopsy. This includes: ibuprofen, Naprosyn, Flexoril, Celebrex, Motrin, Aleve, Plavix, etc.

If you take blood thinning medications such as Coumadin, please contact your physician for instructions.

The morning of the biopsy, shower but do not use powders, lotion, or deodorant. Cover the breast area before using hairspray, face powder, or perfume.

You should eat a light breakfast or lunch of toast, juice, coffee, or tea.

Wear a two-piece outfit so it is easier to change. Wear a supportive bra so bandages and the ice bag will stay in place.

Questions??

If you have any questions concerning your biopsy or would like to talk to a technologist, please call Kettering Breast Evaluation Centers 937-299-0099.

Appointment

Date: _______________________
Time: _______________________

Free parking is adjacent to the Physician’s Office Building.