



A breast biopsy removes cells to determine a diagnosis.

## Computer-guided biopsy

A breast biopsy is performed to remove cells from lumps or abnormalities in the breast. In a stereotactic breast biopsy, a mammography pinpoints the exact location of the mass by taking x-rays from two different angles. Using these exact coordinates, the radiologist inserts the needle into the lesion and removes a tissue sample.

## Common Uses

*A stereotactic breast biopsy is performed when a mammogram detects a breast abnormality:*

- A suspicious solid mass
- Microcalcifications or a tiny cluster of small calcium deposits
- A distortion in the structure of the breast tissue
- An area of abnormal tissue
- A new mass or area of calcium deposits is present at a previous surgery site.

*Tissue samples are removed using one of three methods:*

- A fine gauge needle is used to remove fluid or cells.
- A core needle uses a large hollow needle to remove breast tissue.
- A vacuum-assisted device uses pressure to pull tissue into the needle.

## Outpatient Procedure

*A stereotactic breast biopsy is a non-surgical method of assessing a breast abnormality.*

- You will lie face down on a moveable exam table.
- The affected breast will be positioned in openings in the table.
- The table is raised and the procedure is performed beneath it.

*The procedure is typically not painful and the results are as accurate as a surgical biopsy.*

- A local anesthetic will be injected into the breast to numb it.
- Several pairs of stereotactic x-ray images are taken.
- A very small nick is made in the skin where the needle is inserted.

## Patient Benefits

*The procedure is less invasive than surgical biopsy and is about one-third the cost.*

- Leaves little or no scarring and can be performed in an hour.
- Does not distort the breast tissue which can make it difficult to read future mammograms.
- May remove the entire lesion, especially when a vacuum-assisted device is used.
- Recovery time is brief and patients can resume their usual activities within 24 hours.

*A pathologist examines the removed tissue and makes a final diagnosis.*

- Results are usually available within a week to 10 days.
- Either the radiologist or your referring physician will provide you with the results.