

## Breast Biopsy

If you have a lump or change in your breast or an abnormal finding on a mammogram, you will have follow-up tests. If cancer can't be ruled out with a diagnostic mammogram, breast ultrasound or breast MRI then you will need a biopsy. There are 2 main types of biopsies: needle and surgical. A core needle biopsy is the standard method used to diagnose (or rule out) breast cancer.

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Q: What type of biopsy will I have? Will the entire lump be removed or just part of it?

A:

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Q: Why do you recommend this type of biopsy for me? How accurate is it?

A:

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Q: Who will do the biopsy?

A:

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Q: How long will the biopsy take? Will I be awake? Will I feel anything? Can I go home the same day I have the biopsy?

A:

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Q: Should I avoid any medicines before the biopsy? If so, for how long? When can I start taking them again?

A:

Q: Will the biopsy leave a scar?

A:

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Q: What are the possible side effects of the biopsy? How long will they last? What problems should I report to you (i.e., tenderness, pain, numbness along the scar)?

A:

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Q: When will I be able to resume my normal activities?

A:

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Q: After the biopsy, when will I get the results?

A:

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Q: What tests will be done on my tumor? How will this help guide my treatment?

A:

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Q: Will my tumor be saved? If so, where and can it be accessed again, if needed?

A:

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Q: If I have cancer, who will talk with me about my treatment options?

A:



For more information on breast health or breast cancer, please call our breast care helpline (1-877-465-6636) or visit our website. Susan G. Komen does not provide medical advice.

[komen.org](http://komen.org)

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